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BY PATRICK DUFFY

GRANITE VIEWS

Vital diversity



The current debate regarding the future settlement of refugees in the city of Manchester has provoked strong reactions in our community, which, as I understand it, are due primarily to economic issues. Since coming to Manchester in the mid-1980s, I have learned of the area's rich history of immigrants who came here to better their lives, building our great community into what we have today. As one whose parents were themselves immigrants, I am hopeful that the current debate will lead to a positive resolution of the issues.

As you know, many individuals enter the United States through the U.S. State Department Immigration and Naturalization program each year. Manchester has been fortunate to be a destination of choice for many of these immigrants, over many generations. Having become acquainted with many recent immigrants from Nepal, my wife and I can personally attest to the richness their friendship has added to our lives. Their goals and values are no different than those of people who were born and brought up in this country. Our new friends have jobs in the community, many are attending college, and they are focused on ensuring that their children receive a good education.

In addition to the immigrant community, Manchester has traditionally been a welcoming environment for refugees, people resettled through United Nations intervention to escape persecution, war, famine and other human tragedies. We are familiar with the displaced individuals from Bosnia and Serbia, as well as from Rwanda and the Sudan, who settled in our community several years ago. Recently we have seen the arrival of Bhutanese and Somali refugees. They are all survivors, looking for an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

A recent awards dinner in Boston for the International Institute of New England (IINE) reinforced my thoughts about why we should support refugee settlement. IINE is an agency that welcomes refugees and supports them as they settle in communities, assisting with their basic needs including housing, English language instruction, job-readiness and employment placement. Deborah Dunsire, M.D., a native of Zimbabwe and South Africa, received the IINE Golden Door Award, attesting to her contribution to American society through a life of reputation, accomplishment and character. Today she is president and CEO of Millennium, a world-leading pharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing medicines for cancer care. Her thoughtful and heartfelt remarks were testimony to a welcoming America that leads the global community with people from every nation who have chosen to become Americans. Listening to her remarks, I could not help reflecting on our local situation.

I suggest we need to reassess our commitment to expanding our cultural diversity, and recognize that diversity is exactly what made Manchester the community it is today. Once we decide who we are as a community, I suspect the economic issues will be resolved.

Patrick Duffy was chairman of Manchester Airport Authority from 1990 to 2000 and has been on the boards of many organizations, such as Currier Museum of Art and City Year New Hampshire.

12 School funding.

Yes, again.

Once again, state politicians are taking on the school funding issue. This time, however, there's a chance that a constitutional amendment might actually reach the public. Jeff Muciarone looks at all the different proposals and what they could mean for education in New Hampshire.

Also on the cover: The sweet frosted trend continues and Bedford is the latest area town to get a cupcake shop. We take you inside **Cupcakes 101** on page 45.

Get hands-on with **crafts for the holidays**, as local crafters demonstrate their techniques and local workshops help you create your own wreath, centerpiece or holiday gift. See page 26.

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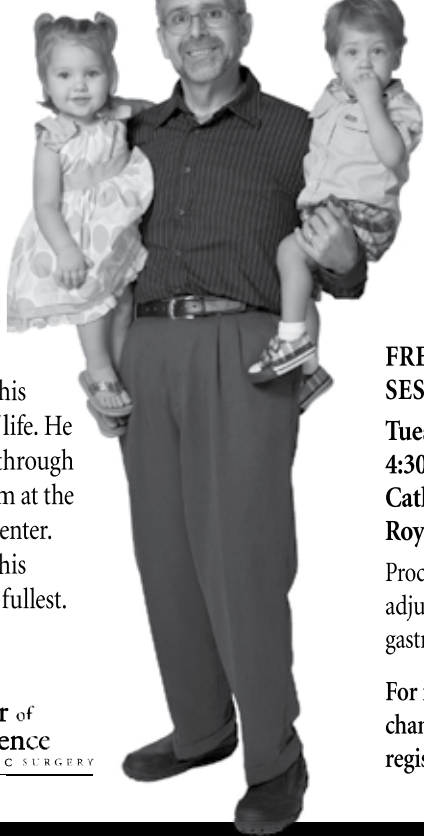
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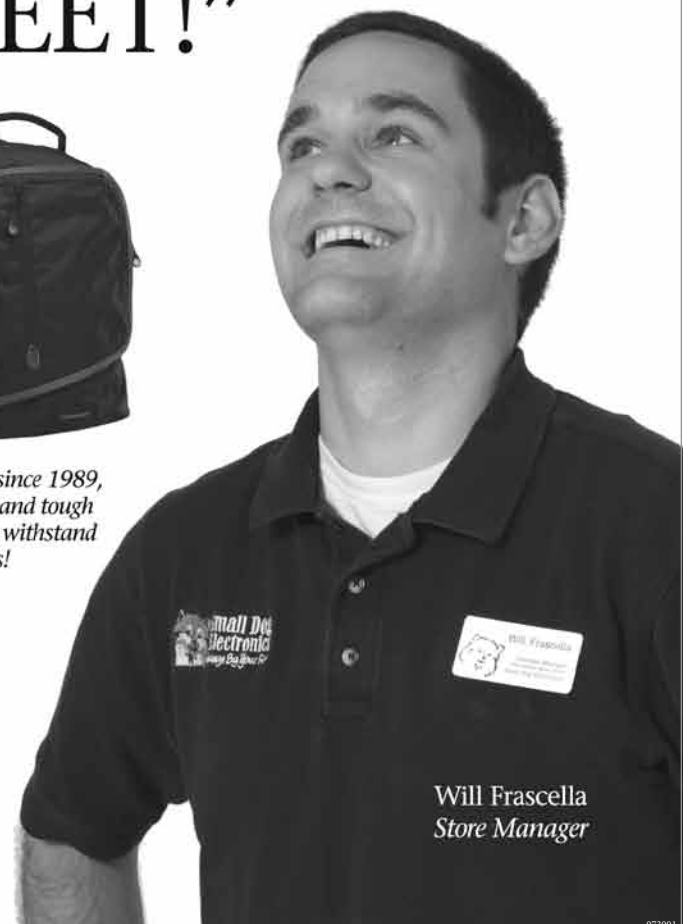


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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Lynch requests federal disaster aid to include debris removal:** Gov. John Lynch asked President Barack Obama for a presidential declaration that would make New Hampshire eligible for federal disaster aid to help cover the costs resulting from the historic and devastating October snowstorm. The storm dropped snow, in some cases more than two feet of snow, throughout the region, downing trees and subsequently power lines, leaving thousands of people without power. "Because this storm occurred at the end of October, most trees were still covered with leaves," Lynch wrote in his request. "The record snowfall amounts, combined with high winds with gusts to 35 miles per hour, caused very significant tree damage and produced the second-largest number of utility customer power outages in New Hampshire history." The request is for damage to public infrastructure in Hillsborough and Rockingham counties. Local communities, the state and FEMA assessment teams estimated damage to public infrastructure in those two counties to be nearly \$3 million, according to a press release from Lynch's office. At the height of the storm, more than 40 state roads and more than 250 local roads were closed or severely restricted due to downed power lines and debris. Some 122 elementary and secondary schools were closed statewide, many for several days. A total of 12 shelters and six warming stations were opened during the storm, the release said. The storm also knocked out power to about 300,000 utility customers, with many customers losing power for as much as a week. The region had suffered a blow from Tropical Storm Irene less than 60 days earlier. If the request is granted, the federal aid would help cover costs communities incurred while responding to the storm, and removal of debris in the storm's aftermath. FEMA previously granted a limited declaration for the state, which would cover just the cost of water, food and other materials, such as generators supplied directly by federal agencies. It did not include aid to help cover the cost of the response to the storm, including snow and debris removal, the release said.

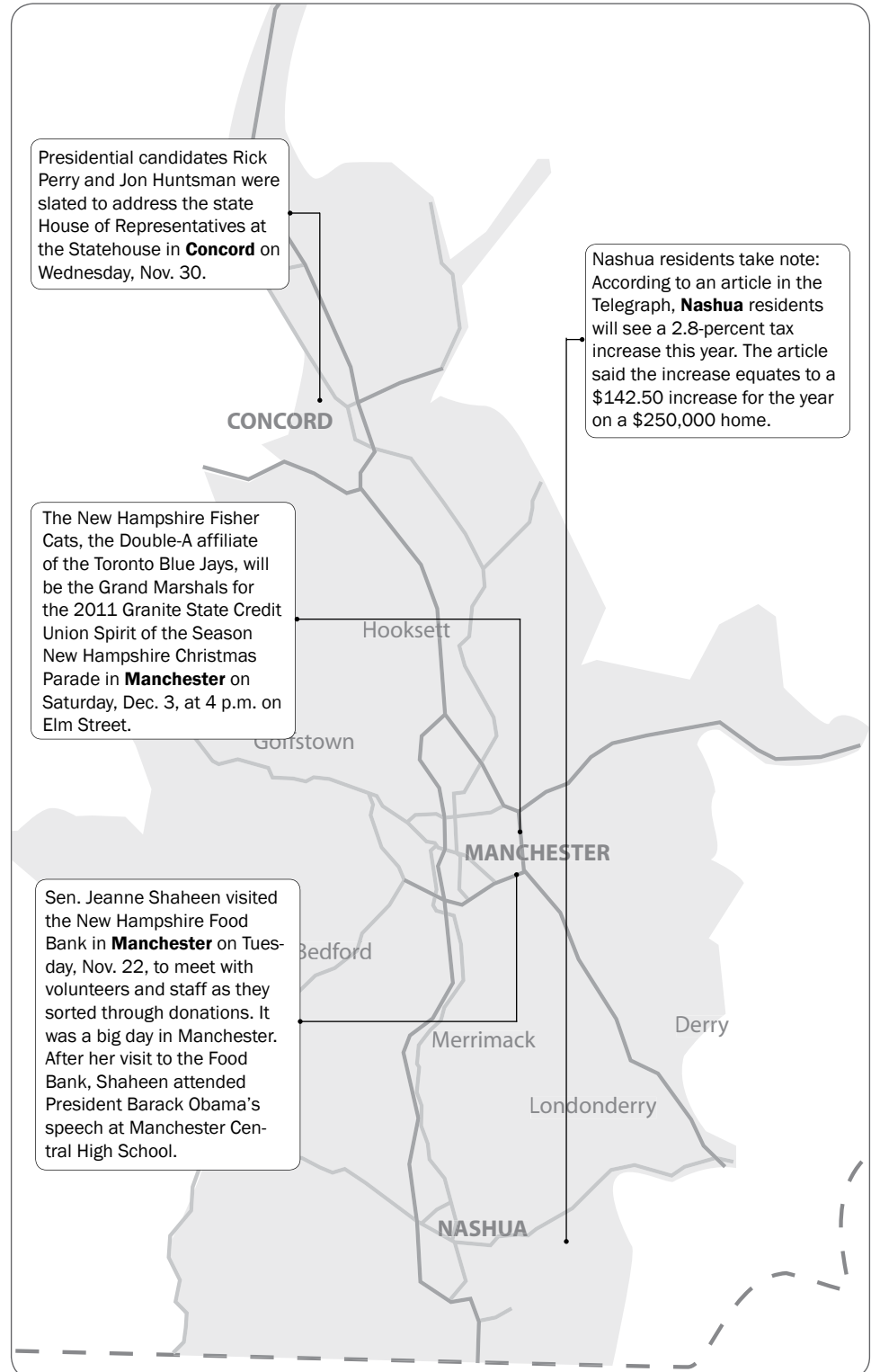
• **Massachusetts now allows casino gambling; NH reps eager to do the same:** To the chagrin of expanded gambling proponents in New Hampshire, Massachusetts got the jump on them. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed casino gambling legislation into law in Massachusetts last month. "Now that casino gambling is legal in Massachusetts, our competitive advantage with Massachusetts is threatened," said state Sen. Chuck Morse, R-Salem, in a statement. "New Hampshire should not, and will not stand by and let this happen. We have a tremendous economic opportunity here that we simply cannot allow to just slip away." Gov. John Lynch, citing regulatory concerns, said last month he would veto expanded gambling legislation if it ever got to his desk. New Hampshire lawmakers will deliberate on a bill allowing two casinos

in the state in January. "If passed, this legislation will also ensure that a significant percentage of the millions of dollars New Hampshire residents currently spend out of state on gambling will remain here," Morse said. Proponents say expanded gambling will create jobs and will create new revenue for the state, while opponents say revenue estimates are out of whack and that expanded gambling could harm the state's quality of life.

• **Manchester student wins Rhodes Scholarship:** Photojournalist Emma LeBlanc of Manchester was recently awarded a 2012 Rhodes Scholarship. LeBlanc graduated from The Derryfield School in 2005 and traveled for a year in Europe and Africa before enrolling at Brown University. The prestigious Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for as much as four years of study at the University of Oxford in England, to about 80 scholars worldwide each year. LeBlanc, according to a Derryfield School press release, co-founded the Besease Scholarship Project to fund the education of children from villages in the Central Region of Ghana. LeBlanc was first exposed to photojournalism while she volunteered at an asylum near Damascus, Syria. Since then, she has split her time between Syria and New England. She graduated from Brown University in June. She co-founded Makoto Photographic Agency, which is a group of photojournalists who distinguish themselves by their long-term commitment to the countries they cover and the context in which they present their work, the release said. Her photography has been featured in GQ, Le Monde, and The National. LeBlanc is also pursuing a master of fine arts degree in fiction at Southern New Hampshire University and is currently writing a novel. She plans to pursue a doctorate in social and cultural anthropology at Oxford.

• **Neverett will manage the Silver Knights:** B.J. Neverett was recently named manager of the Nashua Silver Knights, a college summer league team that debuted this past summer and won the league's championship. Neverett had been the Silver Knights assistant coach this past season in the 2011 Futures Collegiate Baseball League Championship season, playing at Nashua's Holman Stadium. Neverett replaces Mike Chambers, who had to step down due to work obligations at Franklin Pierce University. Neverett has already begun piecing together the 2012 team, re-signing six players from last year's team, including 2011 league leader in batting average and Merrimack native Logan Gillis. Gillis hit .376 last season.

• **UL endorses Gingrich:** In a bit of a surprise, the New Hampshire Union Leader endorsed former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich in his bid for the Republican nomination for president. Gingrich has surged recently in polls. The paper had hinted that it would not endorse frontrunner Mitt Romney, but its endorsing Gingrich caught some off guard. Romney still holds a big lead in New Hampshire, but in recent polls Gingrich has risen to second. To get the state's largest newspaper's endorsement



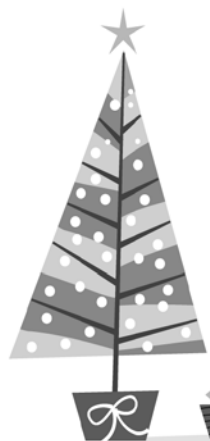
ment is a big deal, of course, but the Union Leader's pick for the GOP hasn't won the nomination since the paper picked Ronald Reagan in 1980.

• **Sen. White declines to run again:** After one term in office, Republican Sen. Ray White has reportedly said he will not seek reelection to the Senate. According to reports, White, who is one of 10 Republicans serving their first term in the state Senate, made the decision not to run for personal and business reasons. White served as vice-chairman of the Commerce Committee and was a member of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee. White represents Bedford, Merrimack, New Boston, Lyndeborough, Mont Vernon and Greenfield. White defeated Bob Jones for the District 9 Senate seat in 2010.

• **Medical prevention programs open in Derry and Londonderry:** The Derry Medical Center and Londonderry Family Practice have opened a new set of programs, called Wellness First, to address

chronic debilitating conditions by supporting medically supervised weight loss, diabetes and cholesterol management, pre-diabetic education and nutritional support. Wellness First offers customized prevention programs, such as First Line Therapy, which is a therapeutic lifestyle program that addresses many chronic illnesses at their core. The program Weight Sense offers medically supervised weight loss, and Diabetes and Cholesterol Healthcare of New Hampshire helps people manage their diabetes and achieve better health. Wellness First's nutrition program is designed to help people eat well and live well. Visit www.derrymedicalcenter.com/wellnessfirst.html. Call 537-3033.

• **Car-donation program helps NH family:** Another Easter Seals family was set to receive a vehicle from the Recycled Rides program (www.recycledrides.org). The program is a nationwide awareness project whereby collision repair members of the National Autobody Council repair and



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donate recycle vehicles to families in need in their communities. Donna and George Wentworth and their 5-year-old daughter Trinity are this year's recipients of a refurbished vehicle. The family is the third New Hampshire Easter Seals family to receive a vehicle through the program. Trinity receives therapy for seizures through Easter Seals NH Children Services. The Wentworths were expected to receive the vehicle the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• **Healthy invention:** The fastest-growing category in the nutrition industry is

functional beverages, which are designed to provide health benefits that reach past general nutrition. Liquid Health, a Deerfield-based company, created PowerCap, a two-piece bottle cap with a storage chamber that keeps nutritional supplements and additives fresh and stable, according to a press release.

When someone twists or pushes the cap, the supplements and additives infuse into a consumable liquid, such as water. This allows beverage companies to work with ingredients they cannot work with in standard, ready-to-drink beverages, according

to a state press release. In recognition of this new technology, Liquid Health was recently awarded the Innovation Rocks! Award from the state Division of Economic Development and Rock 101 for the month of November.

The PowerCap is being used by Last Shot, Nutrelle, VitaHydrate and Fresh Healthy Stuff, the release said. Liquid Health, which was founded in 2002, is located in the abi Innovation HUB in Manchester. Visit www.mypowercap.com.

HIPPO POLITICS

NH still has Democrats, too

Party denounces Romney ad, keeps eye on GOP

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

In a new television ad by Mitt Romney's campaign, President Barack Obama is shown talking to a New Hampshire audience saying, "If we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose."

The problem is that Obama said those words in 2008 and was quoting then-presidential opponent John McCain's campaign. Because it appears to be out of context, the Romney campaign, which hasn't backed down on the ad, has taken some heat.

The state Democratic party is ready and willing to hit back when it sees a discrepancy. And it did so with a letter signed by more than 30 state Democratic lawmakers denouncing Romney's ad.

Maybe you missed it in the midst of all the Republican presidential candidates' visits to the state, as well as all of the headlines coming out of the GOP-led House and Senate in New Hampshire, but the Democratic movement is alive and well in the Granite State.

And Democratic officials are happy to point out the contrast between Democrats and GOP candidates and officials. Democratic efforts seem to have ramped up in recent weeks as the New Hampshire primary season nears the home stretch.

"I think there's more stuff happening in general for the primary, with Republicans crisscrossing the state," said Holly Shulman, communications director for the state Democratic party. "And we've seen them take more positions, each of them, and so I think part of it is just continuing to hold them accountable and finding out where they stand."

Jon Huntsman, usually seen as the most moderate of the GOP candidates, was quoted as referring to the Environmental Protection Agency's "regulatory reign of terror." Ron Paul talked about eliminating FEMA around the time of Hurricane Irene. Those are the types of things the state Democratic party is going to be all over, making the case that commentary like that doesn't represent the view of the majority of the state.

On the presidential front, Democratic officials are saying the candidates are proposing plans and agendas that might work for corporations but not for middle-class Granite State families.

"I think Republicans are so focused on



ending Medicare as we know it, on opposing pay roll tax cuts... they've made their message clear, and we can draw a large contrast with that, and that's what we're trying to do," Shulman said.

And while it's Mitt Romney who is sitting atop the polls in New Hampshire, Democrats aren't saving their wrath just for him.

"We think all of the candidates are serious candidates," Shulman said. "We're working to hold them all accountable."

Hitting the extremes and the flip-flopers

For Democrats, naturally, the name of the game is pointing out extremism and inconsistency when the GOP demonstrates it. That's not to say the Republican party isn't ready to do the same thing, but there are, numbers-wise in office, fewer Democrats for the GOP to pay attention to.

"Some of them are taking multiple positions on issues," Shulman said. "That's what we're really looking at. We have a frontrunner Republican candidate who can't decide if he's pro-choice or anti-choice, pro-gay rights or anti-gay rights. The only thing that is clear is that he is inconsistent on almost every issue." (In case you missed it, she's referring to Romney, who has historically garnered the flip-flopper label.)

The extremism argument is going to be a key one in New Hampshire. The state party, and soon Democratic candidates, will be beating that drum. They have to, particularly with the GOP holding such large majorities in the legislature. Democrats, if they want to be successful, have to make the case that Republican leadership has been extreme.

"They've already taken positions," Shulman said. "All we're doing is telling people about them. ... We know what we stand for."

Shulman sees the case for extremism being made in the positions taken by Republicans in the legislature and Republican presidential candidates.

"We have seen Republicans in the Statehouse make college more expensive, while making cigarettes less expensive," Shulman said. "This is a case of mixed up priorities

and we've seen it at all levels of the Republican government."

A visit from the President

New Hampshire's importance to President Barack Obama's reelection hopes is unclear. His approval ratings here are particularly low. Of course, he won New Hampshire in 2008, so he obviously has support here. The question is whether or not he can get that base excited again.

"We were very excited to have the president in the state," Shulman said. "He was campaigning for the American Jobs Act. That's also an important contrast between Democrats and Republicans. He came here saying this is what we need to do to give tax relief to 30,000 New Hampshire small businesses. What is Kelly Ayotte, Frank Guinta, Charlie Bass, what are they thinking on this issue and why are they waiting? I think that is an important message and an important difference between Republicans and Democrats in this state."

The president's visit could also re-energize Democrats in New Hampshire. It's been a tough few years following the 2008 election. Democrats have taken lots of hits. There hasn't necessarily been a distinct and consistent rallying cry from Democrats. For one, Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, is not really a lead-the-party type of Democrat. He's seen as particularly moderate and just isn't comfortable beating the party line drum. He tries to remove partisanship as much as possible from his decision-making.

Perhaps Obama's presence served as a point where Democrats can begin tapping into the support they had in 2006 and 2008, getting people excited about Obama and Democrats in general again.

Shulman expects, not surprisingly, that voters are going to be paying close attention to what candidates are saying about creating jobs and improving the economy. The state Democratic party will be looking at whether candidates are taking consistent positions that match up with what works for working families.

And when Republican candidates don't take those positions, the state Democratic party will be ready to highlight that.



Obama visits Central High

Pushes payroll tax cuts, contrasts with opponents

By Adam Coughlin and Jeff Mucciarone
news@hippopress.com

Pundits always ask Republican voters to close their eyes and imagine which candidate they could see as president of the United States. Barack Obama is the president and so when he arrived in New Hampshire last week, it was imagination come to life for all potential voters and it showed why it can be difficult to unseat a current president.

Bomb sniffing dogs, sniper rifles, Air Force One, children screaming, parents crying, a marching band playing "Hail to the Chief." When the president visits, he does so in style and it brought into contrast the big difference between being a candidate for president and being the president. Rick Perry, governor of the one of the largest states in the country, doesn't shut down highways when he holds a Town Hall. The president of the United States, regardless of who the individual is, holds one of the most important positions in the world. That power is awe-inspiring and can be a heck of a campaign tool.

President Obama, on a tour promoting his job creation bill, visited Manchester Central High School on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Republican candidates campaigning in New Hampshire have pretty much had the run of the place thus far, without anyone really pushing back on them, at least while they visit.

Although his trip to Manchester wasn't an official campaign visit, Obama spent time explaining the differences between himself and "the other side."

Obama, speaking to a packed house inside Central High School's Carl P. Simon Gymnasium, drummed up support for a payroll tax cut, which will be voted on by lawmakers after the Thanksgiving holiday. Obama told GOP lawmakers to fulfill their pledge of not raising taxes and to vote for the cut, which would save \$1,000 in taxes on the average American family, according to the president.

"Next week, they'll get a simple vote," Obama said. "No, your taxes go up. Yes, you get a tax cut. Which way do you think Congress should vote?"

The crowd cheered yes. Obama said GOP lawmakers have previously voted the bill down. Obama said the tax cuts would not add to the budget as he intended to offset them with tax increases on the wealthiest Americans, many of whom, he said, have asked to carry more of their share.

"The next time you hear one of these folks from the other side ... talking about raising your taxes, you just remind them that ever since I've got into office, I've lowered your taxes, haven't raised them," Obama said. "That's worth reminding them."

Naturally, Republicans pushed back on Obama's statements, saying his policies have failed and the economy is worse off



Obama at Central High School. Adam Coughlin photo..

now than it was when his term began.

Obama said he wanted the crowd to reach out to their own lawmakers (Senator Jeanne Shaheen was in attendance) and remind them that America should be a place where everyone can work hard and get ahead, not just the upper class.

- Obama's remarks at Central High School were interrupted early on by Occupy protesters who started a brief chant before being drowned out by a chorus of "Obama! Obama! Obama!"

- Security for Obama's event was intense. Police officers were on the roof of the high school, an Army bomb-sniffing dog searched the surrounding grounds and a blue van was towed away. But the event went off without incident.

- Central High School **Principal Ronald Mailhot** said candidate Obama had come to Central in 2008 but his visit was cut short due to inclement weather. At the time, Obama said he would return. He made good on his promise.

- **Mitt Romney** has a new ad showing President Barack Obama saying, "If we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose." Obama said those words during the 2008 campaign and was quoting John McCain, his opponent. Romney's ad has drawn fire from Democrats, but as of last week the Romney campaign has stood behind the ad.

- A recent poll by WMUR and the University of New Hampshire Survey Center has former House speaker **Newt Gingrich** in second place in New Hampshire to Mitt Romney. But it's not close, according to the poll. Romney garnered 42 percent of the vote, while Gingrich has 15 percent and appears to be picking up steam. For Romney's part, 42 percent is his highest percentage of the vote thus far in New Hampshire. Texas Congressman Ron Paul garnered 12 percent and former Utah governor and ambassador to China Jon Huntsman had 8 percent.

- **Jon Huntsman** arrived in New Hampshire Saturday, Nov. 26, and is scheduled to continue campaigning here through Thursday, Dec. 1. He visited the Upper Valley and the North Country last weekend, and was expected to make stops in Merrimack, Nashua and Concord earlier this week.

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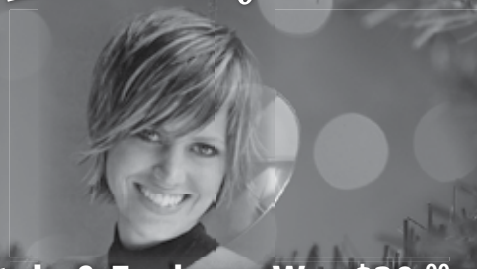
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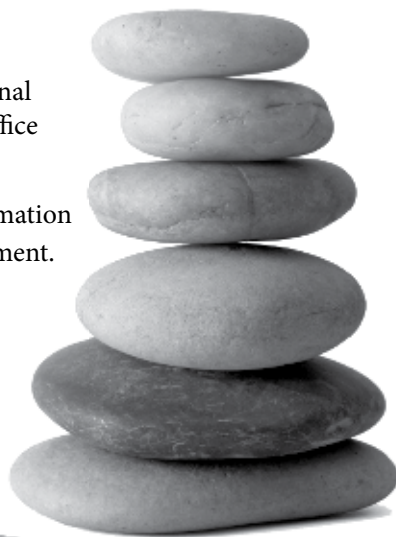
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One million free throws

Dave Cummings shoots hoops to help veterans

It took two years, beginning on Veterans Day 2009, but Epsom resident Dave Cummings made his millionth free throw on Veterans Day this year. Cummings, a father of three, began his free throw shooting quest to raise awareness and funds for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which serves critically injured veterans (www.hoopsforheroes.com). Cummings is still accepting donations. He said two years ago that free throw shooting is one of his few real skills, and figured he was making about 90 percent of his shots. On average he made 1,370 free throws every day for the past two years.

Q: *What are your thoughts looking back on the last two years ...?*

My thoughts are that I'm happy that we were able to ... put together this collective thank-you and I'm happy I was successful in terms of my shooting goals. I feel as though there is just more to be done with it. It's something I didn't necessarily anticipate feeling. But with a few days to reflect, that's the direction that I'm going in. There's more to be done with this project, not necessarily around me shooting free throws, but around a continued expression of gratitude and fundraising.

How did you decide on this particular cause?

I decided on this cause after learning about the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and its mission of serving wounded veterans in this country. ... I was gaining an appreciation of how enormous an issue it is. And when I say that, I mean the amount of services that are necessary, and the amount of attention, it is bottomless.

How did you learn about it?

I heard it on the radio. It was probably four to five years ago. I was listening to Imus. I just, for some reason it really clicked, just how huge an issue it really is. Service men and women ... are coming back with lifelong and life-altering issues ... it struck me that I would just like to chip in in some way.

Did you ever have any doubts that you'd finish?

I never had any doubts that I would finish. There was never a particular day or moment where I thought this is too much. ... I, along with my family, kept it in the perspective of what real sacrifice is. In the context of real sacrifice, shooting baskets a couple hours a day didn't seem like too much of a burden.

How many free throws were you shooting per day?

1,370 per day, that's just the math for two years for a million made foul shots. It was a range. It wasn't 1,370 every day. The most I made in one day was 21,000. That was in honor of a soldier from Waterville Valley who was killed. It would have been his 21st birthday. I was with his family in Waterville Valley. I began at midnight and I made 21,000. It was in memory of Marc Decoteau.

Did you ever skip a day?

Nope. I shot every day.

How did your fingers hold up?

My fingers held up just fine. ... when I was first doing the shooting I had a single rebounder and a single ball. The single rebounder would fire a chest pass back to me, so for the first couple months my fingers took a little bit



Dave Cummings. Courtesy photo by Kerry Allen.

of a beating from catching the passes. Over a period of time, I developed a different mechanism. There were multiple rebounders, one standing next to me handing me the ball. That took the pressure off my fingertips. Generally speaking, there were

no physical issues throughout the process.

You had a lot of people help with your rebounding, is that right?

I think over the course of the project I probably had upwards of 400 different people rebound for me. On the final day, for the final 100 shots on Veterans Day, I wore a shirt that had been signed by all the rebounders.

Did you do anything particularly special when you finished up?

It was at the Basketball Hall of Fame. The organizers there ... put together a real nice veterans-oriented program. I made my final 1,000 shots there. We had a nice crowd. And they really made it about veterans. Had some speakers, all who had various ties to veterans and the military. ... The Decoteau family rebounded for the final 100.

How did things go in terms of the fundraising component?

It will end up being about \$75,000 once the Hall of Fame makes its final donation from the ticket sales that day. In terms of the overall goal, it fell short. [Cummings had initially been shooting to raise \$1 per made free throw.] But in terms of the number of individual contributions, they were ranging anywhere from pocket change to \$5 to \$25 to a \$2,500 donation. It was very satisfying to see. We probably had about 1,500 individual contributions, which in every case represents a piece of this collective thank-you that we were trying to put together.

Your family, what do they think about having you back after this?

... it's difficult to answer that. ... To one extent, they're happy to have the extra time back. But to another, it was never really thought of by them as a sacrifice. Again, considering the context.

Sounds like this will be a lifelong thing for you to some extent. So what's next?

I'd rather not speak specifically about what I'm planning to do because it's evolving. But I definitely have a Phase Two in mind that will have sort of a broader reach. I think that's the best way to describe it. —Jeff Mucciarone

QoL

DECEMBER 1, 2011

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Bigfoot sighting

Performance artist Jonathan Doyle sometimes dresses like Bigfoot and hikes Mount Monadnock interviewing fellow hikers about what they see. He then puts videos of the encounters on YouTube. But the State thinks of Doyle as a Hollywood film crew and has made him pay \$100 for a special-use permit and secure a \$2 million bond. Doyle thinks this threatens his freedom of speech. The case has gone to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *Now we know why Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster and the Tooth Fairy have been hiding — they don't want to pay extra fees.*

The pigs are hitting the fan

Wild boars are taking over — or at least their numbers in New Hampshire are growing to the point where wildlife biologists are getting concerned. According to a Union Leader article, there are hundreds of feral and free-ranging pigs in the state. Wild boars eat a variety of food, including roots, worms, amphibians and even deer fawns, the article said. The boars are considered property of a New Hampshire game farm, from which the boars presumably escaped. Biologists are concerned because boars, which can grow to 300 pounds and which feature razor-sharp teeth and tusks, can severely damage habitat while also consuming endangered species, according to the article.

QOL score: -1 for the destruction

Comment: *Did someone say pork chops?*

Millyard building wins award

Breathe New Hampshire is among 14 New Hampshire builders, architects, businesses and homeowners to win the prestigious 2011 Building New Hampshire Awards. Entrants were selected in recognition of their work to build, remodel, or retrofit an energy-efficient, high-performance residence or commercial building. Breathe NH was recognized for the energy-efficient revival of its new Manchester facility at 145 Hollis St. in the Millyard. It was once the home of Amoskeag Locomotive Works, which began producing steam locomotives in 1849.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *"We're thrilled to have earned this distinction and are especially proud of the fact that, through this renovation process, we were able to maintain the building's historical integrity. This new environmentally-friendly facility further enhances our commitment to clean air and lung health," said Dan Fortin, Breathe NH President and CEO.*

Local man crosses country on bicycle

Most people wouldn't drive from St. Augustine, Fla., to California, because it is too far. Vern Schrum didn't drive it. The New Hampshire resident road the 3,400 miles on his bicycle, according to the Santa Maria Times. During the trip, which took 62 days, Schrum was chased by dogs, slept in fields and rode over mountains. He made the ride in honor of his deceased father.

QOL score: +1


Comment: *Quite a moving (literally) tribute to his old man!*

QOL score: 69

Net change: 0


QOL this week: 69

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2011



DAVE LONG'S HIPPO SPORTS

LONGSHOTS

You've got questions, we've got answers



With people getting ready to write to Santa with their Christmas wishes, it's time for us to check the mail bag to see what inquiring minds want to know.

Dear Dave: What do you make of ESPN firing Hank Williams Jr. from doing the Monday Night Football intro song, for his comments about President Obama on the Fox News Network? Ben Thomas, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dear Ben: He earned what he got. I love people like him who say his First Amendment rights were violated by the firing. Talk about clueless. The First Amendment protects his right to say what he said without fear of being thrown in jail — which is what happened. But it doesn't protect him from getting fired if anything affects the company he works for in a bad way, and I think calling the President of the United States "the enemy" on national TV qualifies as harmful to the show. And to call it a left-wing "media bias" is as delusional about facing the truth and accepting responsibility for your actions as **Ndamukong Suh** was after his Thanksgiving Day stomp.

Dear Dave: You've been critical of the Patriots defenses. What do you think of them now? William Bella, Chekleslovaccia Drive, Souperbol, Arizona

Dear William: Tell you what, the defense is starting to remind me of last year's, which wasn't talent-laden either but improved all through the year. I thought 14-2 was a miracle with that group because, while you can quibble about the GM's draft decisions, it's hard to dispute that they got coached up along the way. Championship caliber, I don't think so. But with the pass rush showing signs of getting better and the injury-ravaged secondary playing better, to go along with being solid in the red zone all year long, maybe they are coming along like last year, when it was the offense and a bonehead play by **Pat Chung** that got them knocked out of the playoffs.

Dear Dave: What do you think of Theo Epstein's reign as Sox GM? R. Rannge Julius, Epstein Way, Casablanca, New Mexico

Dear R.: On the plus side, he won those two titles, which no one did for 86 years before

he took over. He did a nice job on the player development side, and the **Nomar** trade was among the gutsiest trade (that worked) in the 100 years since I've been watching baseball. On the down side, he stat geeked his way to almost a half billion dollars in free agent mistakes. Plus, in my view, thanks to over-valuing new age (a euphemism for worthless) baseball metrics, like zone rating, he continually outsmarted himself, as in the needless revolving door at shortstop and the ridiculous move of now-gold-glover **Jacoby Ellsbury** to left field so an over-the-hill 38-year-old **Mike Cameron** could play center. Overall, it should be pointed out that it was aided by a gigantic payroll advantage that others don't enjoy and helped cover up his biggest mistakes. But, having said that, his tenure will go down as very successful and the fact that he did it starting at age 29 makes it a pretty astonishing accomplishment.

Dear Dave: Despite living near Atlanta, I'm a big Red Sox fan and I was wondering what you think the outcome of the Theo to the Cubs compensation deal will be. Donna Budd, Seelig Street, Garzastrup, Georgia

Dear Donna: They never should have let Theo go without getting it settled and if they couldn't, they should have made him sit out the year. Now that the cat has flown the coop they can expect to get bupkis. They should have stuck to **Matt Garza** and if it were me, I'd have tried to widen it to a larger deal to see if Theo'd take **Carl Crawford** a second time. And if he would, I'd have used the money saved there to sign **Jose Reyes**, who gives them what Crawford does offensively and plays an impact position while freeing **Marco Scutaro** and maybe **Josh Beckett** to trade for pitching help.

Dear Dave: I heard Buster Olney of ESPN say the other day Tony LaRussa was the best manager of the last 75 years, in part because he undeniably changed the game. What do you have to say about that? K.C. Stengull, 40-120 Metropolitan Blvd, Brooklyn, NY

Dear K.C.: You mean other than I think they should consider drug testing at the world wide leader? Just because he "undeniably" changed the game doesn't mean it was for the better. Hitler dramatically changed Europe; does that make him the best world figure of the last 75 years? The change caused games to take an hour longer than they once did. Is

that a good thing? And while he did win three times, it took 33 years. **Casey Stengel** won seven titles and 10 pennants in just 12 years with the Yankees. For **Joe Torre** it was four times in 10 years. **Walter Alston** won three times in 22 years. And LaRussa lost twice with clearly the best talent in baseball with the A's in the late '80s — when, oh by the way, two of the biggest names in the steroid era were, according to **Jose Canseco**, juicing. Did he look past that? I'm not saying he was bad, just that I can name 10 who were better.

Dear Dave: Are you offended by the way Larry Lucchino seems to be micro-managing the Red Sox managerial search by undermining Ben Cherington's apparent choice of Dale Sveum? JJ (my friends call me Harry) Truman, Plainfield, NH

Dear Harry: Your question reminds me of the *Seinfeld* episode where Jerry goes to confession and complains to the priest that his dentist Tim Whatley, who has just converted to Judaism, is now telling Jewish jokes. And the priest asks, "And that offends you as a Jew, my son"? and Jerry says, "No, it offends me as a comedian!" I don't know about you but I'd have been a lot more offended if they'd let Cherington make the colossal mistake of hiring Sveum to manage THIS current Red Sox team. It was an alarming stat-geek-like choice that has me worried about Ben right off the bat. (1) Because a shy, as he's been described, guy can't perform the media relations aspect of the job that Tito was so extraordinarily good at, and being able to do that is an absolute must in Boston because he needs to defuse controversies that arise on nearly a daily basis — think back to what it was like when **Dan Duquette** and **Jimmy Williams** were here. And (2) after seeing the inmates run the asylum for at least the last year, where a lax, non-competitive, just-get-your-work-done spring training led to a 1-10 start and helped derail the season in an epic collapse, a STRONG personality is needed to change the culture. That Cherington may not get that makes me wonder if he's the right choice to be GM. So: way to go, Larry.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM – The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.




THE SITE OF Great Events in Manchester

Central Cruises to Fourth State Football Title

The Red Sox had just ended the 86 year curse by sweeping the Cardinals a few weeks earlier, and the Pats were in the midst of a record 22 game winning streak and on their way to a second straight Super Bowl so sports folk in town were playing with house money. But the real dynasty of the day was on the job as Manchester Central had just reached its sixth straight state title game and was looking for a fourth straight state championship. The offense was led by **Sloan Russert**, who finished the year with 1,917 rushing yards on just 158 carries and an astonishing 28 TD's. On defense, the leader was soon to be Maryland Terrapin linebacker **David Philistin**, who ran for over 1,700 yards the previous year with the injured Russert on the sideline. They got to the Final by whipping Salem 42-14 in the semi-finals behind Russert's 4 TD's and 245 rushing yards. Trying to derail the Central express before some 3,000 fans in the battle at Gill Stadium was 8-2 Pinkerton. But it was more of the same for the Green as they ran out to a 28-3 halftime lead and cruised home a 48-17 winner. Russert led the way again with another 4 TD day while running for a buck 99 on 22 carries and Philistin got the other two TDs on runs of 7 and 36 yards. It made them just the fifth team to ever win 4 straight state football titles and it turned out to be coach **Jim Schubert**'s final game in what assuredly was another great event for Manchester.

PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

Central dashes Trinity's hopes for undefeated season

The Big Story: If they had to lose either the game for the city championship or the state title, you'd guess Trinity probably would have taken the turkey loss to Central, but it still hurt as it ended their hopes of finishing the season undefeated and untied at 12-0. **Riley Cote** and **Junior Brown** led the way for the Green by throwing three TD passes and scoring a pair in a 37-26 Thanksgiving Day win over Trinity at Gill Stadium.

Sports 101: What Hall of Fame quarterback did this in his first year as a starter: completion rate 47 percent, TD passes 7, interceptions 14, yards gained 1,663, yards per attempt 6.4, QB rating 54.9, record in his starts 4-6?

Hot Ticket: UNH and No. 7 Montana State in the NCAA Division IAA Football Tournament at 3 p.m. (EST) on Saturday. It's on EPSN 3 and can be heard locally on WSMN in Nashua and WGIR in Manchester.

Fired: Despite getting to 200 wins faster than any coach in NHL history and four straight division titles, ex-Monarchs coach **Bruce Boudreau** got the ax in Washington on Sunday. It came after the Capitals had dropped six of their last eight games following a 7-0 start, but at the root of the firing was the Caps' disappointing play-off troubles — a similar issue to the one he faced with the M's, who never got out of the first round under him. Overall he was 201-88-40 and 17-20 in the playoffs since being hired in 2007.

Justin Tyme Award: To Nashua's **Kelsey Hogan** for her buzzer-beating put back off to make the UNH women hoopsters a 63-62 win over Cornell at the start of the week. The U was in that position thanks to a 3 from **Cari Reed** that cut the Big Red 61-60 with 24 seconds left. Overall, in 36 minutes Hogan had 15 points, two

rebounds and two assists as the Wildcats moved to 2-1.

Game of the Week: When the SNHU women downed Saint Anselm in a battle of undefeated teams. It featured 12 lead changes in the second half alone and ended in overtime with SNHU a 58-56 winner. **Epiphany Smith** led all scorers with 24, but **Christine Duffy** played the biggest role as she sent it to OT with a bucket with 15 seconds left in regulation and then her two free throws with six seconds left in OT was the margin of victory. It left the Penwomen at 4-0 and Hawks 5-1.

On This Date – Dec. 1: 1951 Princeton's **Dick Kazmaier** is the last Ivy Leaguer to win the Heisman Trophy. 1953 **Walter Alston** named Dodgers manager on his 42nd birthday. 1959 LSU's **Billy Cannon**, who became the first big name to sign with the upstart AFL in 1960 and later did time in the big house for counterfeiting, wins the Heisman Trophy. 1964 Houston Colt .45s change name to Astros. 1967 **Wilt Chamberlain** sets NBA record of 22 free throw misses. 1973 **Jack Nicklaus** becomes first golfer to earn \$2M in a year. 1986 Swashbuckling and hard living great Lions QB from the '50s and '60s **Bobby Layne** dies at 59. 1990 NY Knicks **Patrick Ewing** scores 50 points, beating Charlotte 113-96.

Sports 101 Answer: The numbers belong to two-time Super Bowl winner John Elway, who as football operations chief in Denver said last week the numbers Tim Tebow has put up won't lead to a Super Bowl — all of which are superior to Elway's at a similar career stage except yards gained: completion rate 46%, TD passes 8, interceptions 1, yards gained 852, yards per attempt 6.0, QB rating 80.5 and the big one, record 5-1.

The Numbers

6 – game winning streak the Manchester Monarchs ended the month of November on thanks to two wins over Bridgeport and another over Worcester last week. 10 – consecutive wins by the rampaging Boston Bruins when they outscored the bad guys 47-17 during the span before losing in a shootout to

Detroit on Friday.

17 – times Central has won the city championship game since it was established in 1981.

24 – points by **B. J. Cardarelli** in leading SNHU to a 81-65 win over Saint Anselm when **Elijah Bon-signore** was second high with 16.

42 – margin of victory for

Nashua South in its annual Thanksgiving Day game against crosstown rival Nashua North as **Armond McRae** led the way with TD runs of 5 and 80 yards as South was a 42-0 winner. 48 – years old turned by Oregon head coach **Chip Kelly** out of Manchester Central after hitting his latest birthday the day after Thanksgiving.

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A look at the latest ideas for state education funding

By Jeff Mucciarone

The debate about the state’s role in education funding really comes down to one question: Should the state distribute funding for every student regardless of what individual districts spend on education, or should the state be targeting aid to financially strapped districts?

It’s a question that has been part of the debate since before the Claremont decision and one that lawmakers and the public might need to come up with an answer to in the next year or so.

Last month, Gov. John Lynch introduced language for a constitutional amendment to give the legislature more control over education funding, while maintaining judicial review.

Since a 1997 state Supreme Court decision, the state has been required to distribute education adequacy funding for every student in New Hampshire — \$3,450 per student. Some districts can obtain more state funding through a number of channels, such as special education costs, building aid and free and reduced school lunch programs, but the state must spend \$3,450 on every student as a base, regardless of how much districts spend outside of that.

The proposal wasn’t necessarily met with open arms, particularly in the legislature, whose leaders were miffed that Lynch, after many talks with them on the subject, neglected to tell them about his proposal and never made known to them language he would support.

And so the can of worms that is education funding and adequacy in New Hampshire is wide open yet again.

“The adequacy wars have been going on for almost three decades,” said Nathan Greenberg, superintendent of Londonderry schools.

There have been more than 80 attempts to introduce a constitutional amendment for education funding following the landmark Claremont lawsuit decision in 1997, which affirmed the initial decision of the state Supreme Court of 1992. That decision required the state to figure out the cost of an adequate education

and then to fund an adequate education for every pupil.

New Hampshire is not alone. Many states have had litigation and controversy surrounding states’ roles in education funding. Massachusetts worked through education funding lawsuits, as did Vermont. It is a national issue. Still, New Hampshire is the only state that has a requirement that the state pay the entire cost of an adequate education to every community.

Lynch was hoping his proposal would be considered in the legislative session beginning in January. It doesn’t look like he’s going to get his wish.

This issue is one that politicians of all stripes periodically attempt to tackle. The state House of Representatives and the state Senate passed their own separate versions of constitutional amendments this year. House Speaker William O’Brien, R-Mont Vernon, naturally wants the House version, his version, to be the one that moves forward. O’Brien tacked Lynch’s education funding language on to an amendment, sponsored it to get it before the legislature, and was hoping, urging and expecting the House to vote it down earlier this week on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

So perhaps Lynch’s proposal is out of the mix, and maybe so is the Senate’s, but with Republican supermajorities in the House and Senate, there stands a real chance that O’Brien’s amendment could be passed and then put before voters in 2012.

“Well, I think there’s a committed supermajority to finding a solution, and that’s been demonstrated...,” O’Brien said, noting that there’s more traction this time than in the previous 80-plus attempts to pass an education funding amendment in the House. “So we made progress in this area. We want to make sure the progress we made is not lost by the confusion of the other proposals, which will probably not get a majority, let alone a supermajority.”

Lynch has always said he wanted to address the issue of funding an adequate education. Lynch doesn’t have much political

capital to play with now that he’s a lame duck governor. Still, it had appeared that he and the legislature had some common ground on which to tackle this issue.

“It is my strongly held belief that the state has a responsibility to ensure that every child in New Hampshire has the opportunity for a quality education,” Lynch said in a statement. “But to accomplish that goal, we need an amendment that allows the state to target aid to communities with the greatest needs, and that is what this amendment will do.”

“He has an amendment that he believes accomplishes the goals he has articulated the last couple years, and he thinks this is the best way to ensure every child in New Hampshire has an equal opportunity for a quality education in New Hampshire,” said Lynch’s spokesman, Colin Manning, last month.

But O’Brien doesn’t think Lynch went far enough in his language, particularly with regard to the court system. He believes there is a role for the courts in his proposal, but only to the extent that there is a rational choice. The review the Court has now, “strict scrutiny,” as it’s called, has the Court defining exactly how the legislature handles the issue, he said.

“Basically, there is a choice here,” O’Brien said. “One is to make sure we have control over taxes and spending....”

The New Hampshire School Board Association, a nonprofit organization based in Concord, is concerned about each of the amendments, of which there are at least three varieties. For the Association, the bottom line is that they remove the authority of the judicial system to review what the legislature is doing, said Ted Comstock, executive director of the Association.

“It’s a major concern,” Comstock said. “It really takes us back to the pre-Claremont lawsuit days. We believe changing the constitution in any way, particularly with education, is a very drastic move, and would not work in the interest of the children of the state.”

Comstock wasn't calling the current system a perfect one, but he said he thought the overall process created an "appropriate balance."

"In short, the constitutional amendments being talked about ... we believe they shift the balance too dramatically to the legislature's function....," Comstock said.

At its core, this debate over school funding comes down to an ideological question (or at least it's presented that way): do you think the state should spend the same education money on every student in the state, or do you think it should spend more on "needier" communities and less on "less needy" communities?

As it is now

As the state Supreme Court ruled, the state must meet educational adequacy requirements for every student in New Hampshire. The state distributed, as a base, \$3,450 per student last year.

In determining that adequate-education base for every two-year budget, the legislature considers all legal residents who attend a school in their own district, are tuitioned by their resident district to a district-operated school in the state, or are tuitioned by the resident district to a non-public school, such as a special education program. Charter school students, preschool students and home-schooled students are not included, according to the state Department of Education website regarding Fiscal Year 2012 figures.

Districts can obtain more state funding through other channels, above adequacy aid. The state distributes \$675 per student more for English Language Learners receiving English language instruction, as well as \$1,856 extra for a special education student, according to DOE.

There are no legal restrictions preventing the legislature from approving more funding to communities it deems in need, but it must meet adequacy guidelines for every student first.

In the two Claremont decisions, the state Supreme Court ruled that an adequate education is a "fundamental right in New Hampshire....," according to the Claremont Lawsuit Coalition, an organization that was founded in 1990 to address the unfairness of the state's education funding system.

"Laws that affect fundamental rights receive the highest level of judicial scrutiny (called 'strict scrutiny') in order to protect individuals from governmental efforts to infringe on these rights," according to the Coalition website.

The Coalition contends that a constitutional amendment would take away or at least reduce the "strict scrutiny" the court system currently has over education funding.

Three words and how they change things

Each proposal is slightly different, but the implications of the slight differences could be far-reaching.

Lynch's proposal does include a provision for judicial review, but it's difficult to tell what form that would take. Comstock said it hasn't been interpreted or explained in detail. Even limited judicial review would be much different than the judicial system's current role in the process and could potentially make for a substantially easier standard for the legislature to meet — "perhaps a little too easy of a standard," Comstock said.

The legislature had scheduled a public hearing on Lynch's funding amendment last week, as well as a session on Wednesday, Nov. 30, when the House had been expected to vote on Lynch's proposal. Lynch did not appear at the public hearing on Nov. 22, and it was unclear whether he'd attend the session on Nov. 30.

The governor's proposal comes the closest to enshrining the second Claremont lawsuit decision in 1997. It reads that the legislature will have the authority and responsibility to define reasonable education and to fund it. The Senate's version reads that the legislature would have the authority, responsibility and discretion to fund education. The House's version gives the legislature the authority and full discretion, O'Brien said.

The wording is key.

"The legislature shall have the authority and responsibility to define reasonable standards for elementary and secondary public education, to establish reasonable standards of accountability, and to mitigate local disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity. Further, in the exercise thereof, the legislature shall have full discretion to determine the amount of, and methods of raising and distributing, state funding for public education," according to Lynch's proposed language.

"The general court shall have the authority, responsibility, and discretion to define reasonable standards for elementary and secondary public education, to establish reasonable standards of accountability therefor, and to mitigate local disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity. Further, in the exercise thereof, the general court shall have full discretion to determine the amount of, and methods of raising and distributing, State funding for education," reads CACR14, the Senate version.

"The general court shall have the authority and full discretion to define reasonable standards for elementary and secondary pub-

lic education, to establish reasonable standards of accountability therefor, and to mitigate local disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity. Further, in the exercise thereof, the general court shall have full discretion to determine the amount of, and methods of raising and distributing, State funding for education," reads CACR12, the House version.

The differences are subtle but present.

"You can see the three words at play here, 'authority,' 'responsibility' and 'discretion'," O'Brien said.

The governor's proposal gives the legislature authority and responsibility, the Senate version gives the legislature authority, responsibility and discretion, while the House version gives the legislature authority and full discretion. The word "discretion" is important. Without giving the legislature discretion, it could be easier for the courts to get involved to review how the legislature is using its authority and how it's living up to its responsibility.

The House version goes the furthest in removing the courts and in handing the keys, all the keys, to the legislature. Lynch's proposal gives more authority to the legislature but it still requires lawmakers to define what a reasonable education is and then to fund it. The Senate version gives lawmakers the authority and the responsibility to fund education, but it also hands out some discretion — it doesn't require a definition of adequate education. The House version gives it all to the legislature.

O'Brien said in Lynch's version, the court would still be able to step in to make sure the legislature is distributing money the "best" way.

"What we're trying to do is to get the courts out of primary and secondary education," O'Brien said.

The Coalition Communities, a group of 35 New Hampshire communities working to create fairness in education funding and to eliminate donor towns and the statewide property tax, supports the concept of a constitutional amendment. The Coalition has not specifically endorsed any of the three proposals, said Pat Remick, of the Coalition. None of the proposals on the table now eliminate donor towns.

"From our viewpoint, a constitutional amendment is important," Remick said. "It could eliminate the statewide property tax. But that's not a guarantee. It does seem to be a step toward that."

Opponents of the current amendments fear that they could give too much control to the legislature to fund education in a way that could be overly dependent on the economy and budgetary issues, making education a line item, and not an obligation in good and bad times.

"Our major concern is that we don't think it's

good public policy to rewind to where we were 25 years ago, and that's essentially what these proposals do," Comstock said.

A funding system in flux

The longstanding controversy over education funding has resulted in a constantly evolving state funding system. The funding system has changed essentially every budget cycle. That's one of the controversies with the overall issue — that the adequacy funding formula is in a state of flux. That leads to inconsistency at the local level, not only in amount of funding, but also in planning for how much funding is coming, Comstock said.

"There still is a concern over what the total funding picture will be," Comstock said.

This time around, the legislature did fund "adequacy" at the same level as in the prior biennium, which was a help to school districts. The problem for many is that there is no constitutional obligation to continue to do so in the future if any of the amendments out there now are passed. The Supreme Court's ruling obligates the state to provide funding for an "adequate education" for every student in the state, even though officials seem to agree that \$3,450 is hardly the cost of an adequate education.

Prior to Claremont's lawsuit, the legislature could essentially assign school funding at any level it wished. Some years, the legislature doled out an adequate amount of funding, but not always. The Claremont case, as well as a series of other cases that came along, caused the state to ramp up how much money it was sending to school districts.

The Claremont lawsuit essentially determined that the legislature could not solely rely on districts to fund education on their own. It determined the state must provide some base amount. Prior to that education in New Hampshire had been, at its core, a locally funded system based on property taxes. Changes post-lawsuit were designed to make a more equitable state funding system where towns are sending in money to the state, and getting a good portion of that back for education. Every district receives something.

There are still inequalities, of course, substantial inequalities. While the state spends \$3,450 per student as a base, how much individual communities spend per child varies dramatically. Amherst spent \$14,060 per student on average in the 2009-2010 school year. Manchester spent \$9,459 per student on average the same school year. Franklin spent less than \$9,000 per student on average that year. Those figures factor in total expenditures per student, including local, state and federal funding sources.

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spent nearly \$15,000 per student in the last school year, less per student while giving more to a needier community? That is likely to be a central question to the whole debate. If a district can meet the cost of an adequate education on its own, should it still receive \$3,450 from the state?

“My concern, based on the language I’ve seen, is that many, many communities could wind up with significantly less support from the state, which will make it much more difficult to raise funds locally to maintain quality programs,” Greenberg said.

There are perceptions and realities, in some cases, that certain funding systems could create winners and losers. There is a fear that, particularly with the current legislative makeup, the current constitutional amendment options would allow the legislature to effectively get out of the state funding of education, leaving all, or very nearly all, of it up to each district to raise the money they need to fund education.

Prior to the Claremont decision, the state adopted the Augenblick formula, which was designed to focus state money to the neediest districts. But officials said the legislature only funded education through the formula for a year or two and at insufficient levels.

An adequate education?

As it stands now, every district in the state receives \$3,450 per student each year from the state. Most would say that \$3,450 per pupil is insufficient, and significantly less than the cost of a reasonable education.

The current adequacy formula factors in ways needy districts can obtain additional funding. For example, districts with lots of students with free and reduced lunches or with many English Language Learners can receive more state funding for those programs. The state’s school building aid program also allows the legislature to target aid to communities performing school building projects. A complex set of indicators allows certain districts to obtain more funding, officials said.

Lynch and other officials talk about wanting to target aid to the state’s neediest communities, and many talk about it with the implication that the current system doesn’t allow lawmakers to target those communities. Still, there is nothing in the state constitution that prevents the legislature from targeting aid to needy communities now — but lawmakers do need to meet the \$3,450 per student per district rate first. Lawmakers can always direct more money than that to needy communities. Of course, a lack of funding and political capital might not make that particularly possible.

Opponents of an amendment worry that while the idea of targeting aid can sound good, it opens another can of worms with regard to how the legislature would determine which are the neediest communities.

The current system isn’t necessarily broken, but many say there has never been enough revenue to distribute to communities in an effective way. That means the local property taxpayer is assuming more and more of the cost.

Politics as the art of the possible

Like or dislike the idea of a constitutional amendment, O’Brien certainly seems to have plenty of support in the House with a historic majority. He’s conscious of that. He appears to know it might be now or never.

Arnie Arnesen, a Democratic-leaning political pundit, said the issue isn’t necessarily partisan but it is ideological.

“If Gov. Lynch was a Republican, [Democrats] would be fighting Gov. Lynch,” Arnesen said. “[Democrats] disagree with his decision but Gov. Lynch is like the monkey in the middle.”

In holding a public hearing last week, O’Brien wanted to give the governor’s language a full and fair hearing. But, admittedly, O’Brien said Lynch’s proposal didn’t stand to get much support in the House, and so O’Brien wanted to “break the log jam.” He wanted to get down to a single amendment, preferably his own, to work with.

Lynch never presented Senate President Peter Bragdon or O’Brien any language he would agree to, though the three have talked a number of times this year about getting something done, O’Brien said.

As in all issues, politics are involved. O’Brien said not in a bad way, though. But politics is the art of the possible, he said, and what is possible here is to work with the House’s education funding amendment. Sure, lawmakers could continue to deal with the governor’s language or the Senate’s version — that’s a fine intellectual discussion — but in reality it’s the House’s version that has the demonstrated support of a supermajority, O’Brien said.

“I’m not surprised [Lynch] has an amendment, but we don’t have a good sense of his game plan,” said political analyst Dean Spiliotes in November.

O’Brien needs 239 votes to pass an amendment. He believes he has that in the House, but he knows he doesn’t have that many votes on the Senate version or Lynch’s language. He asked Lynch to get him some votes on Lynch’s language so it could be passed with bipartisan support, but Lynch told him he couldn’t get him any votes on it, O’Brien said.

So let’s get Lynch’s version on the table, vote on it, or move on with a different version, O’Brien’s thinking goes.

While O’Brien appears to be looking to get rid of Lynch’s proposal, Arnesen said she figured Lynch’s proposal would stand the best chance of passing since it’s a little more moderate.

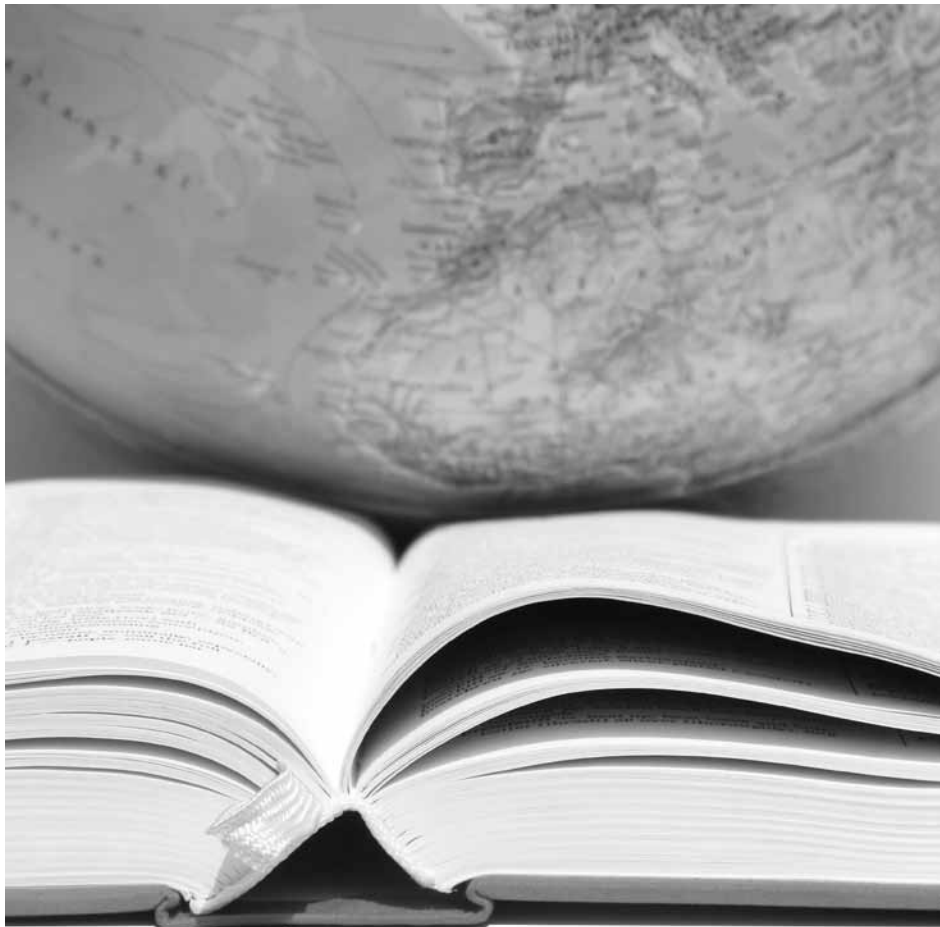
The Coalition Communities is conscious of the politics as well. While it’s not endorsing a specific proposal, Remick said it would seem, given how difficult it could be to pass a constitutional amendment, that the governor’s proposal or perhaps the Senate version would stand the best chance of actually passing at the ballot box.

“Can you get the support you need to pass this in the state if you totally eliminate the courts?” Remick said. “We know that with the governor’s and the Senate’s versions, there still should be some court review, although it is the legislature’s responsibility to draft a funding system for them. It would seem to me that it would be a hard sell to communities on the currently-passed House version, which eliminates any court intervention. We don’t know what a future legislature would do. What if it passes a grievously harmful system where nobody gets any money, not even the poorer towns?”

The buck stops where?

For O’Brien the ideological aspect is key. To him, the country and the state operate as democracies, and courts calling all the shots with regard to a particular government department flies in the face of that.

“Do we have a government democracy that we trust and are we willing to put up with potential mistakes, or do we not trust people at



the ballot box?" O'Brien said.

But opponents of an amendment argue that education is a fundamental right and that it shouldn't be infringed upon by the government regardless of the economic times, in the same way that people wouldn't want the government to intrude on freedom of speech.

"They want to cloak it in terms like 'choice' and 'local control,' but really, it's so the state doesn't have to contribute a dime," Arnesen said. "But it's supposed to make you feel good because you've got a choice to do nothing. Aren't you lucky?"

The Claremont decision fundamentally changed how the state defines and funds primary and secondary education. Up until those decisions, education was a local responsibility, with the legislature having the discretion to target aid to certain programs and to the neediest areas, as it does in other areas, such as the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Corrections.

O'Brien wants education treated like other state departments, and he doesn't understand how it's appropriate that the Court can remove lawmakers' ability to use their judgment with regard to education while it is acceptable that the legislature use its judgment with all the other departments. He sees it as picking and choosing when you can have a democracy.

"It's both illogical and wrong," O'Brien said. "We live in a democracy, not a judicial oligarchy. If the issue is education funding, we elect representatives to make decisions. If they make bad decisions, than they should be un-elected. ... It's called democracy."

People can argue whether the legislature funded education at appropriate levels prior to the Claremont decisions, O'Brien said. At the local level, city councilors or selectmen make decisions on whether there is enough money to repair sidewalks or to fund projects. If people don't like their decisions, they vote them out, O'Brien said. He doesn't see why it should be any different for education.

Leaving an important issue, like education, to judges — that's not what the country was ever about, O'Brien said. He's not arguing the result is perfect all the time, but he is saying it is

ideal — more so than having five judges have all the power, O'Brien said.

Maybe so, but those against an amendment don't see the legislature as having, historically, lived up to its end of the bargain.

"The efforts by the legislature to remove the courts is kind of like taking one leg off a three-legged stool," Greenberg said. "History has shown, every time the legislature has had significant leeway, there's been a drop in education funding."

Education is more than just another department in state government. It's an economic driver: good schools lead to good students, which leads to good companies locating here and hiring good workers who can live and grow right in the state — a not insignificant reality given the state of New Hampshire's aging population, Greenberg said.

In the present context, the state constitution regards education as a right, Greenberg said. Londonderry was one of the key litigants in the last education funding lawsuit — so it's not surprising that Greenberg has some thoughts on the controversy.

"Basically what the court has been saying for years is that there is a sense that education really should have legislative priority," Greenberg said. "Nobody is saying the state should fund education fully, but they should be doing their fair share for every child in the state."

If the court checks are off, what's to stop the legislature from underfunding education, even if it opts for a funding system that fairly and equitably distributes money? In other words, if all the power is with the legislature, opponents of a constitutional amendment say, no matter what the funding scheme for targeting aid ends up being, it will all be on the chopping block when the going gets tough.


"If we look at education not only as a local entity but also as a state driver for economic growth, then the state should play a fair role in funding the schools," Greenberg said. "It should be in the state's best interests to attract business and to improve economic interest, to allow young people in this state to be contributors here, rather than fleeing to go to others."

But O'Brien says New Hampshire, pre- and

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post-Claremont, has historically had a strong education system. It's been a local effort, where parents and teachers talked about and decided what was best for children with school board members, O'Brien said.

An imperfect system

One reason to tackle the problem at all is this idea of "adequacy" and how the amount that the state pays for an adequate education for each student differs from the actual cost of an education in districts across the state.

O'Brien said the current system is not a fair interpretation of the Claremont decision, so in essence he's saying the current system is not in compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling. The ruling required the state to define an adequate education and to fund it, ultimately settling on \$3,450 per pupil. Of course, no one thinks \$3,450 per pupil is actually the cost of an adequate education.

"I don't think anyone can go to court and say that's the case," O'Brien said.

The current system tries mightily to avoid having donor towns, towns that give more to the system than they receive. So the statewide property tax isn't achieving anything other than fooling the court, O'Brien said.

"It's just taking the money out of the left pocket and putting it into the right," Greenberg said.

O'Brien seems to agree with that assessment, and suggested that the court system would ultimately catch on.

"At some point, the court is going to come to us and say you're not doing it," O'Brien said. "We know an adequate education costs three or four times that amount, and you need to start funding it. At that point, we'd need to triple or quadruple the tax as a source of revenue. That's very robust."

Even opponents of an amendment would like to see some changes to the current funding system.

"Historically, it's been up and down and sideways," Greenberg said. "It makes it difficult to do any kind of planning as far as budgeting is concerned."

In Manchester, state aid hasn't always been applied the way it was designed to. In 2008, the state increased its education adequacy grant for Manchester by \$8 million. But with the schools getting more state aid, local elected officials effectively level-funded education by

reducing the schools' tax rate to a point where the schools didn't see any additional funding even though the state was sending Manchester \$8 million dollars extra, said Kathy Staub, longtime Manchester education activist and an incoming school board member.

"Think of it as a pie chart," Staub said. "When the state adequacy section gets bigger, [local officials] reduce the size of the city's parcel."

Greenberg doesn't want to see a constitutional amendment enacted that hands all the power to the legislature, but he doesn't see the current system as perfect. He's looking for more long-term stability in funding levels.

Just from a logistical standpoint, the legislature, in planning the state's two-year budget, often doesn't finalize its budget numbers until the end of June. By that time, school budgets have already been passed. That's problematic, since communities are passing school budgets based on estimates. That makes for a lot of explaining after the fact, if state funding ends up falling short of projections.

"It is difficult to explain to citizens why we have to hedge our comments on what the tax impact is," Greenberg said. "We're not sure what the revenue will be. That's where it's difficult."

The downshift

During the last legislative session, Greenberg said, lawmakers changed the internal funding formula. That has led to significant concern from a number of communities. The rhetoric coming out of Concord is that the state is putting more money into education, but the reality is that from the last budget to the present, the state is spending \$184 million less on education because of changes in the internal workings of the formula, related specifically to Title I students, who are students from low-income families, Greenberg said.

"What you've got is variance over time and in not being able to do planning," Greenberg said.

The state also reduced vocational tuition and transportation money to schools. The state would have cut more but Greenberg said it was pointed out that if lawmakers cut beyond a certain point, the state would lose out on federal money. So lawmakers put enough state funding back in so it wouldn't lose the federal funding, he said.



Schools can also get additional state aid for special education costs. If a special education student, such as an out-of-district placement, costs more than 3.5 times the statewide average per-pupil cost, the state will reimburse the community 80 percent of anything greater than 3.5 times the statewide average per pupil. This year, the reimbursement rate was dropped to about 60 percent, Greenberg said.

“In essence, what you’ve got is continual downshifting of cost to the local level under the guise of local control,” Greenberg said. “What’s local control — you can choose what you’re not going to do. That becomes an issue in greater context if now you have the potential for a constitutional amendment, voucher bills. All of those will either directly or indirectly have significant financial impacts.”

While O’Brien does want to increase local control, he says he’s not trying to eliminate state government’s role in education. There are some towns, perhaps with less of a property tax base to work with, that need state involvement. That’s what he’s talking about when he says he wants to be able to target aid.

What proponents for an amendment seem to be saying is that they would prefer that state government not have to distribute money to wealthy communities that spend in excess of \$14,000 or \$15,000 per pupil, while distributing perhaps more money to struggling communities.

The concern for many is that under some funding systems, middle-tier communities, in terms of property tax base, like Londonderry, Merrimack and Rochester, would stand to lose lots of money, with the loss leading to negative impacts on programs and services, Greenberg said. Greenberg is suggesting that wealthier communities could absorb the loss of state aid, while poor communities would still be receiving state aid, perhaps even more than they are now. In that scenario, the concern is that the middle ground of New Hampshire’s communities could be severely impacted, that without sufficient state aid that districts would be forced to cut back on programming.

Greenberg said he believes every child in the state should receive state money. The idea of targeting aid ends up being an excuse not to give to some communities, Greenberg said.

“With less state support, things will not get done,” Greenberg said. “Because the people can’t support it.”

But there will be no shortage of things to get done.

The state and the federal government are probably going to keep asking educators to ramp up requirements and offerings, while also addressing new laws and rules. That’s not a bad thing, but that isn’t free either. Greenberg said he is a big supporter of special education but the federal government has woefully underfunded the area in recent years. He estimated Londonderry, which he said wasn’t unlike other communities, should have been getting another \$1 million annually from the federal government for special education programs.

When the government doesn’t provide it, local districts need to find the money somewhere else — local taxpayers.

And that’s where the concern is for those opposed to a constitutional amendment, that an amendment gives the legislature too much control to shirk their funding obligations in tough times, leaving it up to individual districts to make up the difference. For those opposed to an amendment, education is more than just another department and it shouldn’t be treated as such.

On the other hand, for those in favor of an amendment, having the court system call the shots is in conflict with democracy. To them, it’s all about the voting booth — if you don’t like the decisions elected officials are making, cast your ballot accordingly.

Staub wasn’t sure what would happen to Manchester if a constitutional amendment was passed. Her fear, regardless of whether an amendment is passed or whether a new funding formula was adopted, was simply that Manchester could lose state aid it desperately needs. If the thinking is that education funding should be generated locally, Staub isn’t confident Manchester would step up to the plate. In her mind, the city doesn’t now. She said a third of the city’s education budget comes from state adequacy aid.

“If we start getting less money, I can’t imagine. I try not to think about it,” Staub said. “If we starting getting less than we are right now, what would we do?”

“Instead of a constant obligation ... it’s a crap shoot,” Arnesen said. “If Republicans want to destroy education as we know it, now they have that license. If Democrats want to invest in education, now they have license to do it, but the people can’t do it.”

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2011, AND BEYOND



Thursday, Dec. 1

Check out local band Craving Lucy tonight starting at 6 p.m. in the Winter Garden Cafe at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, 669-6144, www.currier.org, as part of the First Thursdays Live monthly event. Order up some eats (the cafe is catered by Z food & drink) and afterward head to the "Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography" exhibit, featuring more than 150 photographs of musicians famous in the years from the 1950s through the 2000s. Cost is \$10. Return to the area (the Catholic Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash St., across from the museum) on Saturday, Dec. 3, before 6:30 a.m. to catch a bus to New York City for the museum's Big Apple Express to NYC trip. The bus leaves Manchester at 6:30 a.m., arrives in the city at 11:30 a.m. and leaves Manhattan at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$95 per person; reserve a seat by calling 669-6144 ext. 108. (Above photo: Laura Levine (United States, born 1958), *James Brown*, NYC, 1984, gelatin silver print, 16" x 20". Private collection. © Laura Levine. All rights reserved.)



Friday, Dec. 2

Make Concord your destination tonight to enjoy the holiday fun and shoppertunities of Midnight Merriment, which runs from 5:30 p.m. to midnight. Look for music, Santa, light displays and deals and discounts from many downtown retailers. See www.mainstreetconcord.com.



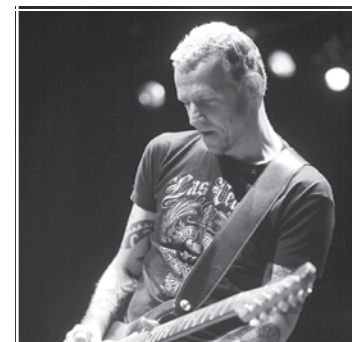
Friday, Dec. 2

Enjoy the holidays, Emerald Isle-style, with "An Nollaig, An Irish Christmas" tonight at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, at 7:30 p.m. Eileen Ivers and her band Immigrant Soul will perform. Tickets cost \$32.50 (student and senior discounts available). See www.anselm.edu/dana or go to page 64 for more.



Saturday, Dec. 3

Who doesn't love a parade? Bundle up and head to Elm Street in downtown Manchester to watch the Spirit of NH Christmas Parade, starting at 4 p.m. Look for Santa Claus to travel the parade route in a fire truck and the Fisher Cats to act as Grand Marshals, and, because it's campaign season as well as holiday season, Mitt Romney (or at least his supporters) is also slated to put in an appearance. See intownmanchester.com.



Saturday, Dec. 3

Gary Hoey will present "Home for the Holiday" at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East Merrimack St. in Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, www.lowellauditorium.com, tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$28.75. The show will include guests Lita Ford and Farren Butcher Inc. (Jon Butcher and Charlie Farren). Hoey's latest album, *Utopia*, came out in 2010 and he has a series of holiday albums called *Ho! Ho! Hoey*. See more at garyhoey.com.

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Free: Stress relief

Laugh your stress away at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. in Concord, www.onconcord.com/library, on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. Marcia Wyman, a certified Laughter Yoga teacher, will explain stress reduction using Laughter Yoga, according to a press release. The events is free and open to the public.

Cheap: Winter excitement

Remind yourself of the positive side of snow at the Snowmobile NH Winter Expo on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Radisson Expo Center in downtown Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 (children 12 and under get in free). Check out winter gear, accessories and, of course, "sleds," as the long-time riders call their snowmobiles. The NH Snowmobile Museum will have a display of vintage, antique and rare race sleds, according to a press release. See www.snowmobile-nh.com.

Splurge: Unique gifts

East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St. in Manchester, 621-7400, www.eastcolony.com, will hold a holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Buy a six-inch by six-inch piece of original art for \$75 or checkout their holiday ornaments. From 4 to 7 p.m., the gallery will hold a opening reception for "Close to Home," a show featuring the works of Dawn Sanel and Doreen Boissoneault. The show will be on display through Dec. 31.

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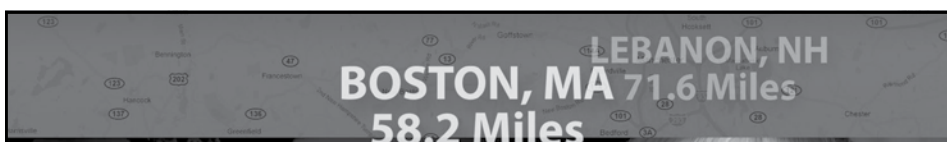
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Non-actors recruited for *Elegies*

Show's opening coincides with World AIDS Day

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

As the editor of Business NH Magazine, Matthew Mowry doesn't have a lot of directors beating down his door urging him to be part of a performance. And Mowry doesn't have a theater background. But the Acting Loft's newest show, *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*, is about more than theater. It is about educating the public. And so Mowry and a long list of other non-actors couldn't wait to take part.

The show tackles the difficult subject of AIDS. It will open on Friday, Dec. 2. World AIDS Day is Dec. 1. This timing is not a coincidence; Acting Loft artistic director Chris Courage wanted to perform the show to educate the public on a problem that many incorrectly think belongs in the history books.

"It is a way to honor those we have lost and educate a new generation on the legacy of the AIDS epidemic and the challenges of finding a cure," Courage said in a previous interview.

The inspiration for the show was the unveiling of the Names Project Quilt, which happened in the Washington Mall in 1987. Poet Bill Russell (not the legendary Celtics basketball player) was so moved by the quilt that he began writing poems from the vantage point of people who suffered or died from AIDS, according to Courage. Panels from the quilt will be in Manchester during the show. *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens* combines a dozen songs with 30 monologues, many of which are poems.

Courage has cast a talented group of actors to perform the songs, but the power of the show is truly reflected in the people he has secured for the monologues. Many of them

are not actors at all. They include David Preece, president of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, Mowry and Joe Ianelli, an executive at Mass General Hospital.

"I am very honored to be part of this production," Mowry said. "This is a different than what usually comes to New Hampshire. It is more than a show. It raises awareness and brings back into focus an issue that needs to be addressed."

"It is an ambitious project," said Ianelli, whose goddaughter often performs with the Acting Loft, which is how he met Courage. "It's a wonderful historic piece that addresses an issue.... The epidemic is not over."

In fact, the numbers of AIDS diagnoses are increasing in the United States, according for the Centers for Disease Control. Courage understands the importance of education, which is why the Acting Loft will be partnering with the Southern New Hampshire AIDS Task Force.

"They will be here to hold a discussion group after each production as well as distributing educational information to audience members," Courage said.

Preece said the show does a wonderful job of spotlighting the breadth of people AIDS affects. It has impacted the lives of people in Africa and your own backyard.

"It's really across the board," Preece said, "and involves a cross-section of people who have died from AIDS. The author captures these people brilliantly."

Preece said he was reluctant to get involved at first, only because of his own busy schedule. But he always tries to support AIDS charities and when he found out proceeds from the show's profits would go to them, he was in. He plays a caregiver. He said his part

is about families.

A show that deals with AIDS seems like it might be a very heavy night of theater. But Mowry said good theater is able to reveal truth about the human experience and that is what this play does. He said it will touch the audience and make connections. Ianelli said there were a number of poignant moments interspersed with more light-hearted music.

It will certainly be powerful to see so many performers standing on stage. Ianelli said there is a range of people with a variety of comfort levels of performing. He said this would add authenticity to the performance and make it a community event.

But how will some of these new actors prepare for their moment in the spotlight?

Ianelli isn't too concerned. Before he got into health care, he dabbled in theater a bit. Plus, in his work he does a lot of public speaking and so he isn't prone to stage fright.

He said he has a great monologue. He plays someone who has died from AIDS and is very angry that, looking at his panel on the Names Project Quilt, he doesn't have enough glitter. He is able to bring some comedy to the role.

This is not so much the case with Mowry. He plays Walter, who is dying of AIDS but still goes back to his small hometown for a reunion. When he gets home, he receives threatening phone calls telling him not to attend the reunion. But he does anyway and actually receives a warm welcome.

"It's a great story of acceptance," Mowry said. He was intimidated at first, as his role involves so much emotion. He talked with Courage about how to portray the character and Courage told him to let the words, which are written as a poem, speak for themselves. Mowry admitted he couldn't relate to exact-



Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens.
Chris Courage photo.

ly what Walter went through, but he did say we've all had moments of being the outsider. He tapped into those memories.

Each actor received a monologue and practiced on his own until it all came together in a major dress rehearsal a few days before the show's opening. Mowry said he had never heard of the show prior to his involvement and has since learned a lot about it. He has liked what he found and wants people to check out the show.

"It is an opportunity to come and hear compelling stories," Mowry said. "They are lives you might not be as familiar with but when you walk away you'll feel you have known them. It is an emotional piece to be a part of."

"Anyone who goes will never be the same again," Preece said. "They will be personally affected."

Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens

When: Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m.

Where: The Acting Loft, 670 North Commercial St., Manchester, www.actingloft.org, 666-5999

Tickets: Cost \$18

20 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

22 Art

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24 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

THEATER LISTINGS

- **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street, Manchester in the Jefferson Mill Building. 666-5999, actingloft.org
- **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org
- **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org
- **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com
- **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613, andysummerplayhouse.org
- **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700
- **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com
- **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford
- **Bedford Youth Performing Company**
155 Route 101, Bedford,

- www.bypc.org, 472-3894.
- **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986
- **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- **Concord Chorale**
224-0770, concordchorale.org
- **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
- **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu
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- **The Majestic Theatre**
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- **The Palace Theatre**
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- **Peacock Players**
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On stage



Dickens and dinner with some salt

George Hosker-Bouley's *A Dickens of a Christmas* will be performed for its ninth year at the Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. In the show, Hosker-Bouley (who also wrote the show) plays Charles Dickens struggling with writer's block as he tries to create a holiday story for his children. As he chats with his friends, new ideas come into his mind. The show, which also includes a three-course dinner and live music, will be performed Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, beginning at 6 p.m. Jane Grondin provides original music on the fiddle and guitar. Hosker-Bouley will have a new comedy coming out this March, *Two Die For*. Tickets cost \$39.99. Call 926-0330. George Hosker-Bouley. Courtesy photo.

St., Lowell, Mass. Performances are at 2, 4, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$42, \$48 and \$54. Visit merrimack-rep.org or call 978-654-4MRT.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Pontine Theatre will perform on Thurs., Dec.

1, at 7 p.m. at the Merrimack Public Library, 470 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. The show is for adults and children ages 10 and up. Seating is limited, so registration is recommended. Call 424-5021 or visit

Curtain Calls

• **One-stop shopping:** It's going to be a busy holiday for Darcie Champagne, Ed Batchelder and Dan Beaulieu. The three will be performing in *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)*, which means they'll be the only three on stage for the 90-minute show. During that time they will work their way through *Frosty, the Snowman* and *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *The Grinch*, according to John McCluggage, who will be directing the show. McCluggage said the show was originally performed in New Jersey and it is a scripted piece but with a lot of improv and audience participation. He said in the first part they touch on many of the popular holiday shows, as well as traditions and customs from around the world. In the second part, they fuse *A Christmas Carol* and *It's a Wonderful Life* into one performance, so Clarence is also one of the ghosts Scrooge sees. It might seem odd, McCluggage said, "until you realize all of these shows have similar elements." McCluggage said holiday shows have such great success not because of religion

or spirituality but because of the common themes of redemption and the power of the human spirit. McCluggage's Buck Hill Productions made its New Hampshire debut earlier this year with *Cole*. This show will be performed on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord. McCluggage said he was excited to begin a relationship with Red River Theatres, which is known for movies not necessarily live theater. The show will be in the screening room, which is an intimate space. "It's a fun way for the whole family to kick off the holiday season," McCluggage said. "It is fast, funny and quick." Tickets cost \$15. Call 224-4600 or visit www.redrivetheatres.org.

• **Cap Center gets in the holiday spirit:** Santa Claus isn't the only one giving out generous holiday deals this time of year. The Capitol Center is getting in on the act. If you purchase a gift certificate of \$25 or more before Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, the Capitol Center, 44 S. Main St., Concord, will give you one free ticket for every ticket you buy for the 2011-2012 season. This is essentially a two-for-the-price-of-one offer. The tickets must be purchased over the phone or at the box office. Call 225-1111 or visit www.ccanh.com.

—Adam Coughlin

merrimack.lib.nh.us.

• **EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$15. Call 224-4600 or visit redrivetheatres.org.

• **GOODNIGHT MOON & THE RUNAWAY BUNNY** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 1, at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 433-3100 ext. 6013 or visit themusichall.org.

• **JOURNEYS** A dance recital will be held on Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. Tickets cost \$5. Call 526-3000 or visit colby-sawyer.edu.

• **JIGSAW JONES: THE CASE OF THE CLASS CLOWN** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 2, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Call 641-7700, e-mail dana@anselm.edu or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Fridays, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15-\$45. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed Dec. 2 through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Show times are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$24-\$35. Visit seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.

• **CHRISTMAS MUSICALS OF LOVE** *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *The Gift of the Magi* will be performed Dec. 2 through Dec. 11 at the Leddy Center, 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays and Wed., Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 and \$18. Visit leddycenter.org or call 679-2781.

• **HOUD OF THE BASKERVILLES** will be performed on Fri.,

On stage



The Nutcracker in Amherst

The Dancer's Loft, located at 5 Pine Street Extension, #6 Mill Annex, Nashua, will perform Tchaikovsky's classic *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Gabrielle Masseur will play Clara, Kelsey Mercurio

will be Fritz and Katherine Proulx will play the part of the Sugarplum Fairy. Tickets cost \$20. E-mail thedancersloft@gmail.com or call 882-0415. Gabrielle Masseur. Courtesy photo.

Dec. 2, and Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Tickets cost \$18 (\$12 for students). Visit garrisonplayers.org or call 750-4278.

• **ROCHESTER FOLLIES** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 2, and Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$20. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 2, and Sat., Dec. 3, at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Call 472-3894 or e-mail bypc@bypc.org.

• **HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR** Cindy Flanagan's Concord Dance Academy will perform on Sat., Dec. 3, at 1 and 6:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10. Visit concorddanceacademy.com or call 226-0200.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Tickets cost \$20. E-mail thedancersloft@gmail.com.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL, TOLD IN THE STYLE OF CHARLES DICKENS** will be performed Sun.,

Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. This event is free and open to the public. Call 673-2288 or visit amherst.lib.nh.us.

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** will be held Sun., Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Call 225-7474 or e-mail info@concordcityauditorium.org.

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** will be performed Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Tickets, which include dinner, cost \$39.99. Call 926-0330.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$32.50 (\$28.50 for faculty, staff, alum and senior citizens; \$15.50 for students; \$6 for Saint Anselm College students). Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **RODELINDA** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Dec. 3, at 12:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Pontine Theatre will perform Dec. 9-Dec. 11 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth.

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Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed Dec. 9 through Dec. 23 at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays, at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. There are also 7 p.m. shows on Tues., Dec. 20, Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23. Visit players-ing.org or call 436-8123.

• **PLAID TIDINGS** The Forever Plaid Christmas Show will be held Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre, 281 Cartier St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$12, \$15, and \$18. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for students/seniors. Visit <http://svbgc.org> or call 672-1002.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** NH School of Ballet will perform on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$15. Call 668-5330 or e-mail beau4@comcast.net.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. and a special abridged school performance on Fri., Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$20 and \$24. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **A DICKENS CHRISTMAS** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. The show is free and open to the public. Call 781-5695 or visit justlovetosing.com.

• **FAUST** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Dec. 10, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **MADELINE'S CHRISTMAS** will be performed Dec. 10 through Dec. 18 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Shows are Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$10. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

• **THE BUZZ CHRISTMAS BALL** will be held on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$30-\$40. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$16. There will also be performances on Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$6. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Nashua Court Street Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost from \$12 to \$17. Visit peacockplayers.org or call 886-7000.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Center will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec. 18, at the Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. All performances are at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$18-\$25. Call 889-8408 or visit nbtcd.com.

On stage



Dickens comes to Manchester

Once again, Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*, will grace the stage of the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Shows will be on Fridays, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. The performance is based on the 1843 novella by Charles Dickens that tells the tale of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a crotchety old man who hates Christmas to a beloved grandfather figure. The show was voted the Best Live Theater Show in Manchester by Hippo readers in 2011. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$45. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org. A Christmas Carol. Courtesy photo.

• **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** featuring performances by Eastern Ballet Institute and Concord Community Music School on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 and 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$16.50 (\$12.50 for seniors and students). Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **TWELVE DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets cost \$10 (\$6 for kids under 12). Visit lifeline-drama.com.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Turning Pointe Center of Dance will perform on Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$15. Call 485-8740 or e-mail tpcd@comcast.net.

• **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:** Live from WVL Radio Theater will be performed on Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$20, \$29 and \$35. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **TWELFTH NIGHT** will be performed Jan. 6- Jan. 22, at the NH Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 (\$18 for seniors and students). Call 431-6644 or e-mail info@nhtheatreproject.org.

• **TRIP TO BROADWAY** Will leave Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester at 8:30 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 13, and will leave New York City on Sun., Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$525 per person. Includes round-trip bus fare, two nights in a hotel and a ticket to *Sister Act*. Call 668-5588 or e-mail tinakelly@palacetheatre.org.

Auditions/open calls

• **THE BECKONING** Auditions will be held on Thurs., Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m. at the Garrison Players, 650 Portland Road, Rollinsford. Call 750-4278 or visit garrisonplayers.org.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see currier.org for tickets.

• **HOLIDAY FINE ART** will be held through Dec. 30 at the NH Art Association, 136 State St., Portsmouth. There will be a reception Fri., Dec. 2, 5-8 p.m. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER HOLIDAY MARKET** will be held Thursdays, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, and

Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Dec. 15, in the Brady Sullivan Plaza Mall, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285.

• **EVERGREEN FAIR** will be held on Thurs., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Memorial Union Building at UNH, 83 Main St., Durham. The event is free and open to the public. E-mail evergreenfair@hotmail.com or call 934-6248.

• **34th ANNUAL CONTOOCH ARTISANS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR** will be held on Fri., Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at St. Andrews's Parish Hall, 354 Main St., Hopkinton. Visit starryweekend.blogspot.com.

• **MIDNIGHT MERRIMENT** will be held on Fri., Dec. 2, 5:30-midnight in downtown Concord. At the same time the Minor Threat Pop up Gallery will host the Merrimack River Painters, 122 N. Main St., 2nd floor, during the same time. Visit merrimackriverpainters.com or call 645-5958.

• **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, and Sun., Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Rte. 101A, Milford. Call 673-8499.

• **CHRISTMAS 'OHANA FESTIVAL** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, 1-6 p.m. in the Prescott Ballroom at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$7 (\$5 for kids 15 to 6; free kids 6 and under). Call 264-9437.

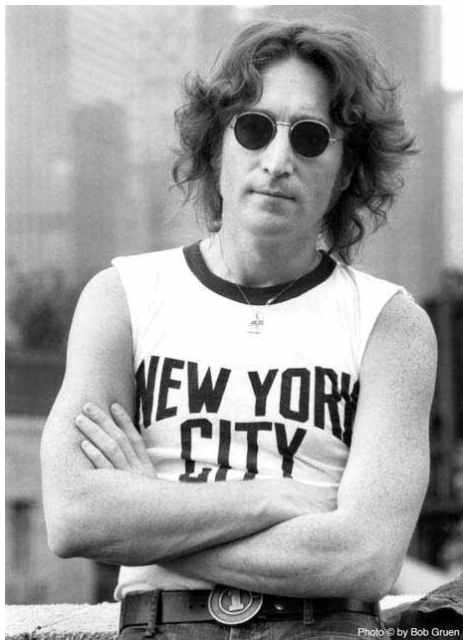
• **HOLIDAY FAIR** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jacques School, 7 Elm St., Milford. Free shuttle service provided. E-mail joandargie@aol.com.

• **WINTER GLASS EXPO** Annual Open House will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, noon-5 p.m., at Aaron Slater Glass, 21 West Auburn St., Manchester. Call 380-3004 or visit aaronslaterglass.com.

• **UP FROM THE UNDERGROUND** will be held on Sun., Dec. 4, 2-7 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre, 40 Main St., Wilton. A \$10 donation is suggested. Call 731-8163 or e-mail sweatyturtle@gmail.com.

• **WINGS OF KNOWLEDGE** Lecture series will feature photographer Scott Bulger on Tues., Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Library Living Room at NHTL, 31 College Dr., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 271-7186.

• **WINTER LIGHTS IV ART EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 1 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30



John Lennon. Bob Gruen photo.

• **Legend comes to Rochester:** Artist and photographer Matt Wyatt learned a valuable lesson when he opened his new gallery, Wyatt Art Studios, in Rochester: never be afraid to ask, because you never know who will answer. Wyatt has long been a fan of John Lennon and Yoko Ono and he said he always watched documentaries about them, listened to their songs and stared at their photos. As such an avid fan, he was very familiar with the work of photographer Bob Gruen. Gruen has worked with every major rock band and even more than that became personal friends with Lennon when he arrived in New York in the 1970s. His famous photo of Lennon with circular sunglasses and a New York City T-shirt is one of the most iconic in rock photography. Gruen spent hours with Lennon and Ono. He attended their parties and shot them in studio,

p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m. Visit loadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

• **A COMMISSIONER'S ROUND-TABLE** on Cultural & Heritage Tourism will be held on Thurs., Dec. 6, noon-2 p.m. at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. E-mail shelly.angers@dcn.h.gov or call 271-3136.

• **CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG** Artist will speak on Thurs., Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Hampshire Institute of Art's French Building, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Visit nhia.edu.

• **FOURTH ANNUAL COOKIE COMPETITION & HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** will be held Sat., Dec. 10 and Sun., Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Brush Gallery & Artists' Studios, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Visit thebrush.org.

Gallery openings

• **ART FROM THE HARBOR GALLERY** will be held through December at the UNH School of Law, Two White St., Concord. Galler hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. There will be a reception on Sat., Dec. 3, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **CLOSE TO HOME** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 31 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will

be an opening reception on Sat., Dec. 3, 4-7 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com.

• **BOB GRUEN** Rock & Roll photography will be on display Dec. 3 through February at Wyatt Art Studios, 87 North Main St., Rochester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays, noon-7 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m. Visit wyattartstudios.com or call 207-200-1925.

In the galleries

• **A CHOSEN PATH:** The Ceramic Art of Karen Kames will be on display through Dec. 3 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **ABOUT FACE:** New Paintings by Kendra O'Donnell will be on display through April 27 at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery at Salloway & Hollis, 29 School St., Concord. Call 225-2515.

• **ANITA PERRY** work is on display through December at the UNH Graduate School Manchester Campus, 4th floor, 286 Commercial St., Manchester. Call 641-4313 or visit gradschool.unh.edu/manchester.

• **ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION** will be held through Dec. 14 at The Gallery at New England College on Main Street in Henniker. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 428-2329 or visit nec.edu.

• **ARTFUL GIVING FOR THE**

LOCAL COLOR

according to Wyatt. So when Wyatt opened his gallery this summer, he thought he'd reach out to Gruen and ask for some prints. "I thought it would be a fun and out-there idea," Wyatt said. "I never thought I'd hear anything." But five weeks later he heard from Gruen's secretary, and a few weeks after that he received three prints in the mail: photos of The Clash, Led Zeppelin and John Lennon. Wyatt will display these in his gallery, 87 North Main St., Rochester, through February. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., which coincides with Rochester's art walk. Wyatt said the exhibit signifies more than just cool photos; it lets everyone in Rochester know that their city can attract the best talent. That is one of the reasons he opened up his gallery. Wyatt said Rochester is a great place but is lacking an identity. He said when people think art, they think of Portsmouth. But Rochester has some great artists trying to do some new things. He hopes his gallery, which opened in January and has five shows a month, will help put the city on the map. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Call 207-200-1925 or visit wyattartstudios.com.

• **Another great comes to Manchester:** Chris Van Allsburg, author and illustrator of *The Polar Express* and *Jumanji*, will speak at the New Hampshire Institute of Art's French Building, 148 Concord St., Manchester, on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m. In a previous interview with the Hippo, Van Allsburg said he would remind the students that they need to find their own reward for pursuing art. Sometimes this is financial but other times it is simply doing what you love. Van Allsburg is the final speaker in the inaugural Distinguished American Artists Discussing Art series (DAaDA). Visit www.nhia.edu.

—Adam Coughlin

HOLIDAY will be held through Dec. 24 at the Millbrook Gallery & Sculpture Gardens, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **BACKSTAGE PASS:** Rock & Roll Photography. Exhibit will be on display through Jan. 15 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **CHRISTMAS DRAWINGS** by Fr. Iain MacLellan will be on display through Dec. 10 at the Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center at Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and remains open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Call 641-7241.

• **COLLAGE** Multi-artist exhibition on display through Jan. 7 at the Sharon Arts Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **DAVID MCPHAIL:** Looking Back... and Beyond will be on display through December at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission to view gallery only. Call 742-2002 or visit childrens-museum.org.

• **EARLY WINTER '11 EXHIBITION AT 100 MARKET** Multi-artist exhibition will be held through

Jan. 13 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2818.

• **FIFTH ANNUAL WILD NH AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT** will be through Dec. 4 at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. Visit nhaudubon.org.

• **FOCUS ON NATURE** Work of Elizabeth D'Amico and Jessie Pollock will be on display through Dec. 19 at the Lyceum Gallery at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FULL CIRCLE:** Dahlov Ipcar's Circle Paintings, with a Round of Marguerite and William Zorach and Selected Works from the Boston Sculptors Gallery will be on display through September at the Paul Creative Arts Center at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Gallery hours are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **GAIL SMUDA:** A Retrospective will be held through Dec. 16 at the McIninch Art Gallery, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursday, 5-8 p.m. Visit snhu.edu/art or call 629-4622.

• **HOLIDAY MINIATURES EXHIBIT** will be held through Jan. 13 at the Sharon Arts Downtown Exhibition Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org.

• **HOLLIS ART SOCIETY** Directors of the Society will show their work through Dec. 1 at Re/Max Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Pat at 882-1503.

• **ICONS OF HISTORY:** Objects that Define New Hampshire. Objects will be on display through Dec. 31 at the New Hampshire Historical Society's museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **INFINITE MIRROR:** Images of American Identity will be on display through Dec. 4 at the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College. Gallery hours are Sunday-Wednesday, noon-5 p.m., Thursday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, noon-8 p.m. Call 358-2720 or visit keene.edu/tsag.

• **KIMBERLY PECK** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Gallery open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499 or visit nhantiquecoop.com.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **MONIQUE SAKELLARIOS** Work will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **NATIVITIY SCENES** will be on display through Dec. 31 at the America's Credit Union Museum, 420 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester.

In a gallery near you



Mrs. Claus comes to Milford

The Annual Holiday Open House will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Route 101A, Milford. Besides being decorated for the holidays, the store will have Mrs. Claus' North Pole Kitchen on display. The kitchen vignette is designed by Beverly Weir-Longacre, who has been collecting and dealing antiques for more than 20 years. She is also the creator of elfworks, which are small floral arrangements set in antique holders. They will be on display in the store. There will also be an area where kids can work on drafting letters to Santa. Call 673-8499. Mrs. Claus' kitchen display. Courtesy photo.

Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Saturdays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 629-1553.

• **NEW WORKS** by Fine Arts Faculty will be on display through Dec. 16 in the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery at Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. The event is free and open to the public. Call 526-3647 or visit colby-sawyer.edu/arts/index.html.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, verdigrisartisans.com.

• **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through the summer at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Call 284-7728 or visit patricialaddcarega.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **POLLINATION: BEYOND THE GARDEN** Multi-artist exhibit open through Dec. 3 at the Brush Gallery & Artists Studios, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Call 978-459-7819 or visit thebrush.org.

• **PRECIOUS** Multi-artist holiday exhibit through Jan. 15 at Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit soorye.com.

• **SETTING THE STANDARD:** Work of Jurors. Exhibit will be on display through Dec. 14 at the League of NH Craftsmen Craft Center, 49 South Main St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 224-3375 or visit nhcrafts.org.

• **SILENT AUCTION** held every third Thursday of the month through December, 6-9 p.m. at 100 Main St., Nashua. Call 930-0623.

• **SMALL WORKS, GREAT GIFTS** Holiday theme show on display through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **TOMORROW'S MASTERPIECES ANNUAL ART SHOW & SALE** will be held through Dec. 3 at the Long Memorial Building, 300 Main St., Hopkinton. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets cost \$15. Call 746-3825 or visit hopkintohistory.org.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **TWO NEW EXHIBITS** Felice Beato: Photographer in Nineteenth-Century Japan and John Wiseman: Postmodern Constructs, Japanese-Style will be on display through Dec. 12 at the Museum of Art at UNH-Durham. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **VISIONS AND REFLECTIONS: DIVERSE JOURNEYS** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through Dec. 24 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **WESTERN NH ARTISTS** The work of Alicia Drakiotis and Sienna Merrifield Giffin will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

Classes/workshops/ demonstrations

• **HOLIDAY ORIGAMI WORKSHOP** Karen Beaver will teach on Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-noon at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Registration is required and open to adults and teens ages 14 and up. Register at tinyurl.com/nplcraft. Call 589-4610.

• **RUSSIAN MATRYOSHKA DOOL WORKSHOP** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. The workshop is for adults and families with children ages 6 and up. It is free but materials can cost between \$10 and \$55. Call Lisa at 924-8040.

• **OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in the French Building Rotunda, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Costs \$20. Call 836-2515.

• **CAROL WHALEN ART STUDIO** Ongoing youth and adult classes in drawing, painting, and mixed media at Hampton Falls Common, 97 Lafayette Road, #9, Hampton Falls. Visit carolwhalen-studio.com or call 601-6900.

• **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS** at Sharon Arts Center, 457 Route 123, Sharon, sharonarts.org, 924-2787.

• **CLASSES** for adult, teens, and children at White Birch Fine Art, LLC, 8 Mohawk Drive, Londonderry, 434-0399, WhiteBirchFineArt.com.

Backstage Pass

Rock & Roll Photography

OCTOBER 7, 2011 - JANUARY 15, 2012



This exhibition was organized by the Portland Museum of Art, Maine.
Laura Levine (United States, born 1958). James Brown, NYC, 1984, gelatin silver print, 16" x 20". Private collection. © Laura Levine. All rights reserved.

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Holiday music by the people, for the people

SNHU Community band brings players together

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

The holiday season is all about bringing people together. That is exactly what the Southern New Hampshire University Community Band & Orchestra does, not only with its performances but within the group itself.

The Community Band & Orchestra is made up mostly of students, and most of these from the university but a select few are talented high school players. Playing alongside them are teachers from local elementary, middle and high schools.

All of these players will put their talents

Jazz Collective

When: Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m.
Where: SNHU Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester

SNHU Chorus and Small Ensembles Concert

When: Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.
Where: SNHU Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester

Holiday Pops Concerts

When: Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.
Where: St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester
Tickets: All shows are free and open to the public.
More info: Visit snhu.edu/music

together at a special free holiday pops concert on Monday, Dec. 12, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. It will be the second time the Community Band & Orchestra has played off campus, according to Richard Cook, director of the SNHU music department. Last spring they played at the Palace Theatre and had to turn people away because they had filled the 825-person venue. The cathedral holds 900 people, so Cook believes there should be room for everybody but suggests people plan accordingly.

Cook said the concert will follow a traditional pops format, which means the first part will be more serious classical music and the second part will have lighter holiday-themed tunes. For the serious section the band & orchestra will tackle Leonard Bernstein's "Mass." They chose this piece, according to Cook, because Gary Corcoran, longtime director of bands at Plymouth State University, will be guest-conducting the piece and he has always wanted to do "Mass."

As the concert will be held in the cathedral, they were asked to perform religious music. So they will also be playing brass-heavy Russian Christmas music and "Amazing Grace."

"The 'Amazing Grace' we will be playing was written as a memorial to the children of the victims of Sept. 11," Cook said. "We played it once before at the Statehouse for the Sept. 11 tribute and we wanted to do it again."

Southern New Hampshire University president Paul LeBlanc will join the musicians

on stage with a special reading of *'Twas the Night before Christmas*. Cook said he was a big hit last year and that plenty of the faculty turned out just to poke fun at him.

Cook said that sense of community is felt strongly at SNHU even as the school expands at a rapid pace. Cook said the mixed band and orchestra is a blessing for all those involved. High school students get to play with teachers, music majors get to create relationships with prospective future employers and music teachers get to meet the up and coming talent.

Cook said he has now been at the school for some time and so none of the programs are entirely new.

"It's going incredibly well," Cook said. "We're getting a routine with things. When everything is brand new, we kind of run around going, 'What do we do?' Issues come up that you would never expect. But now we have things under control."

Cook said even a year ago he would never have thought of the cathedral as a potential concert venue. But they reached out to him, which he said they do an excellent job of, and he couldn't be more pleased with the newly formed relationship.

Of course not all of their performances are off campus. On Thursday, Dec. 1, as part of the Southern New Hampshire Concert Series, which brings in four free musical acts each year, the Jazz Collective will perform at the school. The Jazz Collective is a 10-piece jazz ensemble made up of faculty members and



Southern New Hampshire Community Band and Orchestra. Courtesy photo.

freelance players in Boston. Cook said the size of the ensemble is rare, as most are either bigger or smaller. The group writes its own arrangements of popular jazz hits. Cook said the performance doesn't have a holiday collection and will be used by the music history classes to bring to life their curriculums. Of course the concert is free and open to the public as well.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the SNHU Chorus and Small Ensembles will host a concert at the school as well. What is cool, according to Cook, is that it will feature the first guitar ensemble. The school is able to provide free guitar lessons to any SNHU student who wants them.

"Response has been enormous," Cook said. "What 18-year-old doesn't want free guitar lessons?"

In their performance, the students will play rock tunes from the '60s. Cook said while The Beatles may have had two guitars, this ensemble will have 15.

- **CITY ARTS NASHUA** cityartsnashua.org, a central place to buy tickets to the Nashua Symphony and Chamber Orchestra concerts, coffeehouse performances, theater productions, art fundraising events and more. Includes info on non-ticketed events including gallery openings, art exhibits, classes, films, poetry readings, and lectures, 589-3070.
- **FALL ART CLASSES** Available at Pottery@PhoebesBarn, 16 North Main St., Mont Vernon. Call 673-3410, e-mail pottery@phoebesbarn.com or visit phoebesbarn.com.
- **GLASS LAMPWORKING CLASSES** and studio use at Aaron Slater Glass, 21 W. Auburn St., Manchester, aaronslaterglass.com, 380-3004
- **GOFFSTOWN AREA ARTISTS** breakfast club, Mondays, 8 a.m. at Travers Village Eatery, 13 Main St., Goffstown.
- **IKEBANA** Learn the art of Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) at Ikebana Flower, 95 W. Pearl St., Nashua. Two-hour classes are held weekly Wed., Thurs. and Fri. Call 595-8877.
- **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Visual and performing artists are invited to attend the Hollis Arts Society monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Lawrence Barn, 29 Depot Road, Hollis. Contact Pat Hurd, president, at 882-1503.
- **OIL PAINTING CLASS** Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$140 for 8 weeks, at East Colony Fine Art, 5 South Commercial St., Manchester, eastcolony.com. Contact Lawrence Donovan at 669-6994.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS** with Dan Splaine at Test of Time Pho-

tography studio in the Picker Building, 99 Factory St. Extension, Nashua, 579-0777, testoftimephoto.com.

- **POTTERY CLASSES** at Out on a Limb Pottery Studio, 99 Factory St. Ext., Nashua. All skill levels. Wheel throwing and handbuilding, days, evenings and weekends available. Call Paula at 978-597-5464 or e-mail mpash123@comcast.net.
- **POTTERY CLASSES** Learn to make pottery on the potters' wheel or learn hand-building techniques at Warm Stone Studio (99 Factory St., Nashua, warmstonestudio.com, 595-9500).
- **SMALL GROUP AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES** will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 and 5:15 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Becks Arts Express Studio, 5 Pine St., Extension, Nashua. Call 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com.
- **ZENTANGLE WORKSHOP** with Diane Ryan. Classes at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.
- **ZENTANGLE CLASSES** will be held Tuesday afternoons or evenings for all ages and skill levels at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.

Children's art classes

- **FALL/WINTER ART CLASSES** at Becks Arts Express, 5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua, 781-910-3438, artsexpressnh.com. Winter break camp will be held Dec. 27 through Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-12. Costs \$75.
- **ART CLASSES FOR KIDS** at Kimball-Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com. courses in painting,

drawing, and art for homeschoolers.

- **ART CLASSES FOR TEENS** at Kimball-Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com. Offering courses in surrealism and manga/anime.
- **BECK'S ART EXPRESS** (5 Pine Street Ext., Mill Annex #6, Nashua, 781-910-3438, artsexpressnh.com) will give art classes to youngsters for \$12.50 per child per hour for small group lessons and \$25 per hour for private lessons. Arts Express is owned and operated by Rebecca Fredrickson, a professional artist and certified teacher, and located in Nashua but will come to your location up to 75 miles away. Call 889-1670 or visit artsexpressnh.com.
- **CAMP DA VINCI** at Southern NH Montessori Academy, 1E Commons Drive Unit 28, Londonderry, snhma.org, 818-8613.
- **CREATIVE CRAFT CLASSES** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-3475, is offered Thursday at 4 p.m. Parents are invited to sign their children (ages 6-10) up for three sessions during Sept. and Oct. See tinyurl.com/nplkid.
- **FAMILY STUDIO** at Currier Museum (currier.org) every Wednesday 2:30-4:30 p.m. Adults and children can drop by one of the museum's new studios to participate in an art-related activity and brief gallery talk about the "Artwork of the Day." Every month will feature a new theme. No reservations required. Free with museum admission.
- **HOME SCHOOL ART CLASS** For ages 5-10 on Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. at Becks Arts Express Studio, 5 Pine St., Extension, Nashua. Class costs \$12.50. Call 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com.

- **KIDS' ART** at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, 898-7064, third Tuesday of each month, at 3:30 p.m. This 90-minute program introduces kids in grades 2-5 to the work of artists and allows them to create their own work, too. Registration is requested; the class is limited to 15. To sign up, stop by the children's room.
- **KIDS ART CLASSES** will be held Saturday mornings for 6- & 7-year-olds, Saturday or Thursday afternoons for 8- to 12-year-olds and Wednesday afternoons for 12- to 16-year-olds at E.W. Poore Art Studio, 531 Front St., Manchester. Call 622-3802.
- **LITTLE PICASSOS** White Wing School, 58 Lowell St., Nashua, Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m. Registration required. For ages 2-3. Explore watercolors, clay, oil pastels, and collage materials. Each class begins with a song and ends with circle story-time. Classes are taught by Rebecca Fredrickson an artist/teacher. Call Becks Arts Express at 889-1670 or e-mail admin@artsexpressnh.com to register.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 866-241-4918, nhia.edu) offers classes for high school students for college credit. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed.
- **PRESCHOOLARTS & CRAFTS** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-3475, is offered Thursdays at 1 p.m. Parents are invited to sign their children (ages 4-6) up for three sessions during Sept. and Oct. See tinyurl.com/nplkid.
- **TALK PAPER SCISSORS** (Willow Tree Plaza, 575 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-8009, talkpaperscissors.com) offers classes for groups of

three or more people to fit your schedule for all levels and ages. Classes include journaling, bookbinding, collage and scrapbooking. Children's birthday parties are available.

- **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; yourefirednh.com) has regular studio fees of \$6 for children (under 12), \$8 for adults, schedule of times online. Monday is Mini-Monday where children's studio fees are \$3 (half off). Friday Night is Teen Night with teen (13 to 19) studio fees \$4 (half off).

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

- **JAZZ COLLECTIVE** Performance will be held on Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.
- **THE YING QUARTET** will perform on Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors). Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.
- **PASTIME WITH GOOD COMPANY** - Medieval & Renaissance Music will be performed on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 925-4555.
- **35th PARALLEL MUSIC OF CENTRAL ASIA** Concert will be performed on Sat., Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough. Tickets cost \$15 (\$5 for student/child). Call 924-4555.
- **DECEMBER SONG** Saint Anselm College Choir will perform on Sat., Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at The Abbey

Church, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

- **NH GAY MEN'S CHOIR** will perform a concert series called Peace. Concerts are: Sat., Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord, 224-2521; Sun., Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. at Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester, 669-4524; Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church of Portsmouth, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 436-8842; and Sun., Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 121 Manchester St., Nashua, 882-4512. Visit nhgmc.com or call 1-866-644-6274.

- **HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3 and Sun., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Nashua. Tickets cost \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit nashuasymphony.org.

- **MESSIAH** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. Free admission. Visit messiah.webatu.com.

- **MESSIAH SING** will take place on Sat., Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church (4 South Main St. at the top of Route 13). Come watch over 100 people from over a dozen communities will sing selections from G.F. Handel's "Messiah." Donations are taken at each performance. Call 673-3510.

- **THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$25. Visit mcmusicschool.org or call 644-4548.

• **FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT** will be held on Sun., Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. at the Dunbarton Congregational Church, 6 Stark Highway, Dunbarton. Tickets cost \$10 (\$5 for children 12-6; free for kids under 6). Visit dccucc.org.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Sun., Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Emmanuel Church Family Life Center, 24 Eastern Ave., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **UNH CONCERT CHOIR** will perform on Mon., Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. at the UNH-Durham. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 862-2404 or visit unh.edu/music.

• **SNHU CHORUS & SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT** will perform on Tues., Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **NEW ENGLAND SWING** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at White Birch, 222 Central St., Hudson. Tickets cost \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door). Call 595-9156.

• **A CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, 3-5 p.m. at Saint Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. Visit mcsnh.org.

• **ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for students and seniors). Call 228-1196 or visit cmuschool.org.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Parker Gallery of Whister House, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for children). Visit lowellphilharmonic.org.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. at Merrimack High School, 38 McElwain St., Merrimack. Tickets cost \$7 (\$5 for children 12 and under). Call Laurie at 424-0558 or e-mail info@merrimackconcert.org.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** Concert will be performed on Sun., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gssso.org.

• **MUSIC AND DANCE** The Nashua Flute Choir will perform on Sun., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students. \$5 for children). Visit nashuaflutechoir.com or call 888-1741.

• **A WINTER WELCOME** Harpist Jane Wilcox Hively will perform on Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Laconia Public Library, 695 North Main St., Laconia. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 527-1278 or e-mail lhmslpl@metrocast.net.

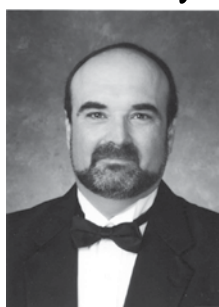
• **HOLIDAY POPS** Concert will be performed on Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **BRASS FLOURISH** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 777 West Hollis St., Nashua. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **STILE ANTICO** Choral ensemble will perform on Fri., Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center at UNH-Durham. Call 862-2290.

• **BOSTON POPS** will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$20-\$124.

On stage



Tradition continues in Concord

George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* will be performed in Concord for the 81st year. The performances, which will be conducted for the sixth year by Benjamin Greene, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Centre St., Concord. The performance on Saturday is an open rehearsal, and Sunday's show is a full production that will feature the 86 members of the Concord Community Chorus. There will be some great soloists joining in on the action on Sunday, including Janet Poisson, soprano; Emily Jaworski, alto; Frederic Scheff, tenor, and Matthew Stansfield, bass. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit www.messiah.webatu.com. Benjamin Greene. Courtesy photo.

On stage



Deck the halls and walk through your neighbor's

For the first time in its more than 25-year history, the Friends of the Nashua Symphony's Holiday House Tour will include homes outside of Nashua. The tour will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Nashua. During this annual event, people will be able to visit and enjoy the fine holiday decorations within three of Nashua's and two of Hollis' best homes. Visitors will see, among other things, a wine cellar, a glass wall from an old building and homemade furniture. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Proceeds support the symphony. Visit www.nashuasymphony.org. Inside a home from last year's tour. Courtesy photo.

Call 863-7300 ext. 603.

• **CAROLING AT THE CURRIER** will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, noon-1:30 p.m. at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit mcsnh.org.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **HIGH STRUNG** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **FANFARE 2012** Nashua Symphony will perform on Fri., Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. Tickets cost \$75. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **STRAFFORD WIND SYMPHONY** will perform on Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for children under 12). Call 335-1992.

• **DMITRY KOZOV** Cellist will perform on Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **NASHUA SYMPHONY STRING QUARTET** Performance will be held on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Southern New Hampshire University Dining Center Banquet Hall, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **CORDIS QUARTET** will be performed Fri., March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson

Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **CELTIC JOURNEY** NH Philharmonic will perform on Sat., March 17, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **SIMPLY GREAT** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., March 17, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **THE HEIGHT OF RUSSIAN ROMANTICISM** Concert will be performed on Sat., March 24, at 8 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gssso.org.

• **TAKACS QUARTET** will be performed on Wed., April 11, at 7 p.m. at the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre at UNH-Durham. Visit unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **25th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT** The Saint Anselm College Choir will perform on Sat., April 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/abbey/choir.

• **NATION BUILDING** Nashua Symphony will be perform on Sat., April 14, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12-\$48. Call 595-9156 or visit nashuasymphony.org.

• **SNHU COMMUNITY BAND** Performance will be held on Mon., April 16, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit snhu.edu/music.



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GET LISTED!

listings@hippopress.com

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

DIY gifts

Take advantage of NH's craft expertise

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

In their elementary school classes, children make twisty candy cane ornaments out of pipe cleaners and Santa Claus decorations with red felt and cotton balls. They present their gifts proudly, having created something with their own two hands.

This pride of giving homemade creations doesn't have to end at fifth grade.

For those who need help getting past the handprint-reindeer decorations, New Hampshire features a number of craft- and wreath-making workshops this winter. Amoskeag Fishways will be holding its annual wreath-making workshop on Friday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. It's the 12th year that the Amoskeag Fishways has provided this particular workshop.

"I like to think that with this workshop, we are teaching a life skill — everyone leaves with the knowledge of how to make a beautiful wreath. When they are through, they can go out and continue to create," said Helen Dalbeck, the director of Amoskeag Fishways and the originator of the wreath-making workshop.

The Fishways workshop provides attendees with all-natural materials to create fragrant, long-lasting wreaths for families and cute holiday decorations for the kids. Grapevine wreaths act as a base, and members of the Fishways collect a variety of greens before the workshop, including spruce, white pine, mountain laurel, balsam and an assortment of berries, including winterberries, rose hips, sumac, and collected white and red pine cones.

People like making things, Dalbeck says, yet many are opting to go shopping rather than to sit down and create. But they're missing out.

"Creating these wreaths gives a lot of satisfaction, and they last eight weeks because the wreaths are thick and the greens are fresh. I love that when I make my own I can accent it with things that I love, so that it's specialized to my taste," Dalbeck said.

When you look at how many wreaths can cost \$30 or more on average, the \$15 charge on materials is very reasonable.

"It's of good value, and we always try to make sure it's affordable. Although most of the materials are gathered, we do have to

purchase the wires and some of the greens," Dalbeck said.

The Amoskeag Fishways' wreath-making workshop is one of many in New Hampshire. There will also be a Greens Gathering Hike and Wreath-Making Workshop at Brown Lane Barn, 52 Brown Lane, Hollis, on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. In this particular workshop, attendees will gather their own materials from the great outdoors. The hike begins at the Brown Lane Barn. Upon return, participants assemble wreaths while drinking warm beverages and listening to holiday music. Admission for this event is \$25. To register, call 465-7787 or visit www.beaverbrook.org.

Other upcoming holiday workshops include Craft Time at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St. in Salem, on Tuesday, Dec. 6; Ornament Painting at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Tuesday, Dec. 20, and a recycled card ornament workshop at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson will also be providing a number of fun events for kids and adults, including a Gingerbread House-Making contest and a Floral Centerpiece workshop. The centerpiece workshop, which takes place Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., is extremely popular.

"Whenever we have a 'make-your-own' workshop, they tend to fill up fast," said Amy Friedman, who coordinates the adult and young adult programming at the library. "It can be jewelry-making, purse-making, centerpiece-making, anything. These workshops are the most popular ones put on in the library — the hands-on, do-it-yourself crafts," Friedman said.

Kids especially love these hands-on workshops, Friedman said. They get very excited about being able to be creative doing their own thing.

"We had a duct tape craft workshop a while ago, and the kids went crazy, making clothes, purses, flowers and book covers out

Wreath-making workshop

When: Friday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.,

and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Amoskeag Fishways, 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, www.amoskeagfishways.org

Cost: \$15 materials charge per wreath. Registration is required; call 626-3474 to register.



Kathy Marx creates papier mache art.

of duct tape in every color of the rainbow!" Friedman said.

Pre-registration is required by Friday, Dec. 2. Call 886-6030 or go to www.rodgerslibrary.org and register under "upcoming events."

But maybe you're an expert crafter and you just want a few ideas to get the creative juices flowing.

Creators can try out one of these workshops or can take note from watching a professional. The New Hampshire Craftsmen of Meredith will present a papier mache demonstration featuring artist Kathy Marx at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen retail gallery at 279 DW Highway in Meredith on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The demonstration is free for all to see and learn from. To see how these artists create their work can be a "fascinating process," said Nancy Rowley, manager of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen in Meredith.

Marx is one of many artists within the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen who take part in these year-long demonstrations. The idea is to educate people on how things are made.

"If nothing else, it gives people the incentive to try something new, once they see how it's made," Rowley said.

So you can go with the store-bought sweater you get your mom every year, or you could make her something from the heart. You may just need a little instruction or inspiration to get started.

Floral centerpiece workshop

When: Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

Where: Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson

Cost: \$25 materials charge. Pre-registration is required by Friday, Dec. 2. Call 886-6030 or go to www.rodgerslibrary.org and register under "upcoming events."

CHILDREN & TEENS

Libraries

• Amherst Town Library

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us

• Bedford Library

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us

• Concord Public Library

45 Green St, Concord, 225-8670, onconcord.com

• Hollis Social Library

2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us

• Hooksett Public Library

1701 Hooksett Road, Hooksett,

485-6092, hooksett.lib.nh.us

• Manchester City Library

405 Pine St., 624-6550;

76 N. Main St., 624-6560;

manchester.lib.nh.us

• Nashua Public Library

2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4631, nashualibrary.org

• Pollard Memorial Library

401 Merrimack St., in Lowell, Mass, 978-970-4120, pollardml.org

• Rodgers Memorial Library

194 Derry Road, Hudson, rodgerslibrary.org

• Wadleigh Memorial Library

49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us

Museums

• The Children's

Museum of NH

6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org

• Mariposa Museum

26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org

Nature

• Amoskeag Fishways

6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• Beaver Brook Association

117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org

• Charmingfare Farm

Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

• Daniel Webster Council of Boy Scouts

571 Holt Ave., Manchester, 625-6431, nhscouting.org

• Educational Farm

at Joppa Hill

174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

• Girl Scouts of the Green

and White Mountains

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Santa time

• Eat the most important meal of the day with St. Nick: have **Breakfast with Santa Claus** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's, 581 Second St., Manchester. Take part in a 50/50 raffle and take photos with Santa (be sure to bring a camera). Admission is \$5 for pancakes and juice or milk. Proceeds benefit N-Step Dance Center's Competition Team Nationals trip. Contact N-Step Parent Council at nstep-pc@gmail.com. Tickets are also available at the door.

• If you sleep late and miss breakfast, **pictures with Santa** will also be offered later that afternoon at the Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson — Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 886-6030.

• Sparky isn't always allowed in the library or in restaurants, so he'll be happy to learn that **Santa pet photos** will be taken at the Barking Dog facilities (200 Rockingham Road in Derry and 208 Londonderry Turnpike in Hooksett) on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. for \$5.

Proceeds will benefit Greater Derry Humane Society, Inc. Call 434-1512 or visit www.derryhumanesociety.com.

Make something

• A family **wreath-making** workshop will be held at Amoskeag Fishways, 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, on Friday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. Use all-natural materials to make fragrant, long-lasting wreaths and other decorations. The cost is \$15 per wreath. Registration is required; call 626-3474 to register.

• Learn how to make all sorts of things at the **Go Wild With Crafts** event at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Learn how to use natural materials for crafts, and transform pine cones, milkweed pods, acorns, seeds and sticks into amazing items to take home. Cost is \$9. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

Lights and shops

• Get a bit of everything merry on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the **Jingle Downtown Holiday Stroll** in Milford. Free shuttle buses will transport you from shop to shop. Call 249-0676 or visit www.milforddoit.org for a complete schedule of events. The **Holly Berry Fair** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 10 Union St., Milford, featuring homemade preserves and candies, gift baskets, Christmas crafts, gently used Christmas items, a cookie walk and holiday greens, plus lunch served at the snack bar. Call 673-3713.

• Take in **Christmas at Canterbury** on Saturdays, Dec. 3 & 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Canterbury Shaker Village, www.shakers.org. The Village will be lit up and decorated for the season. Enjoy a candlelight stroll or take a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride through the Village. Admission is \$17 (\$8 for ages 6-18, free for children 5 and younger); \$42 family rate for two adults and three children.

3:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 per day for SSC members, \$55 for non-members, \$225/week for members, \$250 for non-members. Kids will travel to Odiome Point State Park and to other locations around the glob via "virtual field trips." Call 436-8043 ext. 16 or visit www.seacoastsciencecenter.org/programs/daycamp.

• **HOLIDAY TREKS 4 TOTS** is hosted by Seacoast Science Center and takes place Dec. 26-30 at 570 Ocean Blvd. Rye. Kids age 3-5 will explore different animal habitats and learn about how animals survive cold winters. Cost \$30/day SDSC members, \$35/day for non-members, \$125/week for SSC members, \$150/week for non-members. Visit www.seacoast-sciencecenter.org/programs.

• **DECEMBER DAY-CATIONS** will be hosted by the Concord Parks & Recreation and take place Tues., Dec. 27 to Thurs., Dec. 29. Day-long trips include tubing at Gunstock, rock climbing, mini golf or bowling. Call 225-8690 or visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

• **ROBOTS & CARS CAMP** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, Wed., Dec. 28 & Thurs., Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At this two-day camp, suggested for ages 6 to 9, campers will build and program robots to complete an obstacle course, and build motorized cars for both speed and towing power by learning about gearing up and gearing down. Costs \$120 per child and pre-registration is required; call 742-2002.

Homeschooling

• **OBSERVING THE NIGHT SKY** is geared towards homeschooled students and will take place at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Insititue Dr., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Learn about prominent constellations, Galeleo's discoveries, and observe star clusters, galaxies, Neptune and Uranus. Admission is \$15 per student, \$10 for each additional student from the same family. Call 271-7827.

• **GO GREEN AT AUDUBON CENTER** Homeschool and preschool children of all ages can find educational programs at Prescott Farm Audubon Center (928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, 366-5695) on Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. The homeschool programs are set up as six-week units designed to provide an in-depth look at a particular nature topic or theme.

• **HOMESCHOOLERS DISCUSSION GROUP** at Manchester Barnes & Noble (668-5557) the third Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

• **MERRIMACK YMCA** offers homeschool tennis for children ages 7-12. Contact the Merrimack YMCA at 881-7778.

• **NASHUA YMCA** offers classes for homeschooled students including "Simple Science" and "Starting Spanish," and sports classes for 6- to 12-year-olds.

• **ONLINE CLASSES FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL** offered by The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. The school offers history, art, entrepreneurship, marketing and technology courses. The Academy is tuition-free for students who live in NH. Out-of-state students can participate for a fee. Go to www.vlacs.org or call 778-2500.

• **PUBLIC SPEAKING** for homeschoolers ages 12-18. Contact 228-3911 or e-mail learnpublicspeaking@comcast.net to set up a class.

Nature

• **WINTER WILD TREATS** is a preschool program put on by the Amoskeag Fishways at 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, where children will help birds and other small animals through the winter season by creating natural garlands and edible decorations to hang outside. Event to take place on Wed., Dec. 14 from 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. Admission is \$5 per family, and advanced registration with payment is required. Call 603-626-3474.

• **BEAVER IN WINTER** will teach event

One Commerce Drive, Bedford, 627-4158, girlscoutsgwm.org
• Massabesic Audubon Center
 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org
• McLane Audubon Center
 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org

Science

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center**
 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com
• RoboTech Center
 110 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-6102, robotechcenter.com
• Seacoast Science Center
 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org
• SEE Science Center
 200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

Events

• **MOVIE NIGHT** at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, will feature Rosemary's Baby, starring Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes on Thus., Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m.
 • **FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** on the first Friday of each month this fall the Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, www.childrens-museum.org, will stay open for special evening hours from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and admit all families at no cost. Family Fun Night will be held Fri., Dec. 2.
 • **GO WILD WITH CRAFTS** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn how to use natural materials for crafts, transforming pinecones, milkweed pods, acorns, seeds and sticks into amazing items to take home. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.
 • **PICTURES WITH SANTA** will be

offered at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd., Hudson, Sat., Dec. 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

NASHUA CATHOLIC OPEN HOUSE on Sun., Dec. 4, from 12:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 6 Bartlett Ave., Nashua. Attendees can attend tours and meet the staff. Call 882-7011 or visit www.ncjhs.org.

• **HOLIDAY GREENS** is a program that will teach children how to make authentic Holiday Swags out of Evergreens at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Mon., Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. Program is for children ages 5-8. Sign up online at <http://hollislibrary.org> or contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

• **MILLFALLS CHARTERS SCHOOL** is holding Community Information Sessions in Manchester to introduce New Hampshire's first public Montessori elementary school to New Hampshire residents. Info sessions will take place at Brookside Congregational Church, 2013 Elm St., Manchester, and in Spanish on Wed, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne Center, 251 Merrimack St., Manchester. Call 716-0528 or visit www.millfallscharterschool.org.

• **FAMILY ASTRONOMY NIGHT** at the Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, on Wed., Dec. 7 at 7 a.m. Visit www.hooksettlibrary.org.

• **CRAFT TIME** at Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, will take place Tues., Dec. 6, at 9:30 a.m. The activity will feature crafts from variety of materials. Registration required. Call 898-7064.

• **TEEN NIGHT: QUEST FOR THE FIRST HABITABLE EXOWORLD** discussion on the new discoveries of NASA's Kepler mission, led by Dartmouth College astronomy graduate students, on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. Pizza and soda provided. For ages 13-19 only. \$8 admission.

• **19th CENTURY MAGICIAN** "Richard

Potter" will be recreated by present-day magician Robert Olson at the Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Rd., Canterbury, Sat., Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Shows to take place in historic Meeting House, 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY CONCERT AND TEA** will take place at the library, 234 Main St., and will feature Windham Flute Ensemble and local guest performers on Sat., Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.

• **CHILDREN'S BOOK SIGNING** by local author Kathy Brodsky, who will be reading and signing newest picture book, A Horse Named Special, Thus., Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. At Barnes and Noble, 1741 So. Willow St., Manchester. Call Barnes and Noble, 668-5557.

• **DECORATE HOLIDAY COOKIES** at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, on Wed., Dec. 14. Kids ages 6 and older will decorate holiday cookies using artistic talents. Call 898-7064 to register.

• **RECYCLED CARD ORNAMENT WORKSHOP** will be held at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tues., Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. For ages 11 to 17. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **PIZZA & PAGES BOOK CLUB FOR TEENS** will discuss Wisper in the Dark by Joseph Bruchac at the Wadleigh Memorial Library, on Thus., Dec. 15, at 3:30 p.m. In the AV Room. For fifth grade and up.

• **ORNAMENT PAINTING** for children 7 and older will take place at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Tues., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. Learn how to paint glass ornaments for your tree from artist Kristine Brock, and make beautiful bulbs with ceramic paint. Sign up at <http://hollislibrary.org> or contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

Vacation Camps

• **SEASIDE SAFARI VACATION CAMP** will be offered for children grades K-5 from Mon.-Fri. From Dec. 26-30 from 9:00 a.m.-

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attendees about what beavers do in the winter at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Sat., Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$6 for members, \$8 for non-members. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

FISHWAYS OPEN HOUSE Amoskeag Fishways will hold an Open House on Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which will feature live animal shoes, crafts, treats and door prizes. Admission is free, and no pre-registration necessary. Call 626-3474.

• **PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045. Families will follow clues that will lead to various locations around the Audubon Center and its trails where they will find a stamp that can be used to stamp their passport. After following all the clues and finding all the stamps, families will have their name added to the Passport Adventure Wall of Fame and will be entered into a drawing to win a prize. Passports are available at two levels: "Junior" for beginners and "Explorer" for experienced hikers. The Passports are \$2 each and can be purchased at the front desk, Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Teen/tween events

• **WRITER'S BLOCK** is a group of aspiring writers who meet up every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Call 456-7728 after 5 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-18 at the Hollis Social Library on the last Monday of every month, 2:30-4:15 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-17 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Discuss anime or manga series, participate in games and activities, and display your anime sketches in the teen room. Call 589-4612 or visit www.tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Open to teens in grades 6-12. Play cards, watch movies, discuss favorite characters, and draw. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550 ext. 335 or e-mail knorton@manchester.nh.gov for details.

• **ANIME CLUB** for grades 8-12 at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell, meets every other Tuesday, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., from Sept. 20 through Dec. 13. To sign up, call 978-970-4122.

• **BALLROOM DANCING** for ages 11-19 at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. To sign up, e-mail qncybalm@aol.com or call 622-1500. Visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

• **CECILIA ENSEMBLE** high school age section of the Peterborough Children's Choir is open to girls grades 9-12 who can meet for practice Mondays 4-5:30 p.m. at Peterborough Unitarian Church on Main Street. There are requirements for singing ability and self-motivation. Contact Maria Belva at 924-2055 or mariabelva@gmail.com. www.pcchoir.org.

• **CHICKS WITH STICKS BOOK CLUB** Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3 p.m. in the AV Room. For grades 7 and up, this club invites participants to bring their current knitting projects, enjoy snacks and book discussions. New members and beginner knitters

In the spotlight



Fairly filled with fairs

The holiday fairs continue this weekend.

Out in Durham, the **Evergreen Fair** begins Thursday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the UNH Memorial Union Building, 83 Main St., and continues through Saturday (the fair is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday).

Shop for food, fine art, handcrafts and more. The event includes music and a poinsettia show. Call 934-6248 or find the event on Facebook. Four Durham churches also hold fairs on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Out in Wilton, the **Pine Hill Waldorf School**, 77 Pine Hill Drive, will run Friday, Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday is an adults-only evening featuring refreshments and music. Saturday is a family-friendly day featuring activities for kids, including crafts, storytelling and puppet shows. See www.pinehill.org.

And out in Milford, it's a day of holiday shopping and entertainment on Saturday, Dec. 3, with the annual **Holiday Fairs and Jingle Downtown Holiday Stroll**. Ten Milford area groups will hold holiday fairs all day, and free shuttle buses will ferry shoppers between them. The Milford Indoor Farmers Market (also a shuttle stop) will run from 9 a.m. to noon at the Milford Town Hall. Downtown, shops will offer displays, demonstrations and other events. Head back to the Town Hall at 3 p.m. for *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol* presented by Project Shakespeare (admission is \$5 per person; kids 12 and under get in free). At 5:30 p.m., head to the Oval for music from the Souhegan Valley Chorus and the tree lighting at 6 p.m. See www.milforddoit.org or 249-0676 for more.

Other fairs scheduled this weekend include these:

• **The Christmas Craft Fair** at the Crowne Plaza Nashua Hotel, 2 Somerset Parkway in Nashua, will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission costs \$2.50 for adults.

• **The Contoocook Artisans Holiday Craft Fair** at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 354 Main St. in Hopkinton, will run Friday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **GFWC Hudson Junior Women's Club Craft Fair** at Memorial School, 1 Memorial Drive in Hudson, will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 594-0332.

• **The Greenland Christmas Fair** at the Greenland Parish House of Greenland Community Congregational Church on Post Road, will take place Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.communitychurchofgreenland.org.

• **Greens Fair** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, 274 Pleasant St. in Concord, will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **The New Castle Village Christmas Fair** at the New Castle Recreational Building, 301 Wentworth Road, will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **The Snowflake Fair** at the Longmeadow Church, 4 Wilsons Crossing Road in Auburn, will take place Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **St. Nicholas Fair** at the Grace Episcopal Church, 30 Eastman St. in Concord, will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.concordgracechurch.org.

• **Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Craft Fair** at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St. in Manchester, will run Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 669-5650.

are welcome. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **FANTASY BOOK CLUB** held on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For ages 8-13. For kids who love reading fantasy books about dragons, magic, the future and more. Free and open to the public.

• **GEEKS R US ANIME CLUB** for teens at Wadleigh Memorial Library,

49 Nashua Road, Milford, meets monthly on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in the Keyes Meeting Room. Hang out and discuss your favorite anime or manga series, games and activities. Call -2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **JR. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, for grades 5 and up, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Children can help organize,



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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,

With the holidays coming I have been going through some of the table linens I got from my grandparents. A few of them have yellowed and are stained. My girlfriend said to write to you and that you might be able to help me. Can I bleach them? Any information would be helpful.

Carol in Bow

Dear Carol,

With most antique and vintage linens, you would want to hand wash them because even though they might seem to be sturdy, they are fragile — you don't want to open the machine and just find shreds. I have used Oxy Clean and had some success. Then I re-wash.

If you do use the washing machine, use it on a delicate setting with cold water. I have found with Oxy Clean that hot water is the key so, if you can, preheat the water and put in a huge plastic bowl (only practical for pre-soak in small batches). Then let them sit overnight.

Do not ever use chlorine bleach. It's just too harsh. Instead of chlorine bleach, you can sun bleach linens when you have a stubborn old stain. First soak the item in Oxy Clean overnight in a basin that is lined with a big towel. In the morning, lift the piece out, using the towel as a sling, and carefully rinse it off in a basin of fresh clean water. It usually takes several rinses to get all the soap out. Then carefully fold the item in a dry towel to remove excess moisture. (Never wring out old linens! Wringing causes significant stress to old and delicate fibers.) Then lay them out in the grass — morning dew is best — and leave them there for several



hours until they are dry. You can do this with damasks (which is what your napkins are).

Do not iron your antique linens until you are ready to use them. You should damp iron everything, testing the fabric with a lower setting until you are confident it can take the higher heat. To dampen antique linens spray them with distilled water mist or take them straight from the lawn, not quite dry, to the ironing board. I set the iron on the "no steam" setting and go at it. You should use only spring water in your iron and dampen only with distilled water.

I don't recommend starching linens. Though starching does make linens temporarily more wrinkle-resistant, they just don't feel natural. There is nothing worse than to touch your face with a napkin that is stiff as a board! Starch also breaks down and gradually turns linens yellow and then a nasty brownish color.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

plan and run special family, children's and summer reading programs. They can earn volunteer hours. Sign up at www.hollislibrary.org.

• **MONDAY NIGHT SCRABBLE** every week, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. Join young adults for some fun rounds of this classic word game. Invite a partner. Bring a Scrabble board, if possible.

• **NH INSTITUTE OF ART** (148 Concord St., Manchester, 866-241-4918, www.nhia.edu) offers classes for high school students college credit. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed.

• **QUEEN CITY BALLROOM TEEN CLASSES** Sundays, 4:30-5:15 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom Studio, 21 Dow St., Manchester. For ages 11-19. Learn how to ballroom, swing and Latin dance. Each month features a different dance. Come with or without a partner. No pre-registration. Classes are free, but a commitment to regular attendance is required. E-mail qnctyballrm@aol.com or call 622-1500.

• **TEEN ADVISORY BOARD** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at Hollis Social Library, 465-7721, www.hollis.nh.us/library. For ages 13-18. Help the library plan programs, choose books and materials for teens, organize outreach, decorate the teen area, eat snacks and hang out with friends. Community service credit will be given.

• **TEEN COOKING CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, meets monthly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Teens ages 11-18 are welcome to learn the basics of cooking, make their favorite dishes and explore new types of food. All materials will be provided. Club meets in the Winchell Room. Call 624-6550.

• **TEEN MUSIC CLASSES** at Music Together of Milford, 102 Elm St., Milford, on Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Advanced and intermediates welcome to acoustic music class led by Amy Conley. Cost is \$10/session. Adults also welcome. Call -9560 to register. Visit www.amyconleymusic.com.

• **TEEN PIZZA & PAGES** at Wadleigh Memorial Library,

49 Nashua St., Milford, meets monthly on Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. For grades 5 and up. Enjoy pizza while discussing a book. Copies available on the teen display. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **TWEEN TUESDAYS** every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the meeting room at the Hollis Social Library. Choose from Fantasy Book, Game Club, Craft Days, Book Buddies, or do all four. Fantasy Book Club is on the first Tuesday of every month and designed for kids who love reading fantasy books. Books provided at each meeting for the following month. Game Club is on the second Tuesday of every month and includes Wii, board games and snacks. Craft Days are the third Tuesday of every month. Book Buddies is the fourth Tuesday of every month and includes planning story times and crafts for preschool children. Read at after-school storytime and family pajama time

• **WII DAYS FOR TEENS** at Hollis Social Library, every other Friday, 3 p.m., for ages 12-18. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign

up at the circulation desk.

• **TEEN WRITING CLUB** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua Road, Milford. Free-write for the first half hour, then read aloud (you can bring in anything you've been working on at home for this part). Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; yourefirendh.com) Friday Night is Teen Night and teen studio fees are \$4 (half off).

CLUBS

Hobby

• **APPLE CLUB** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. This club will provide local user support for Apple products. User meetings feature product demos and discussions of technology as it relates to Apple computing. Visitors are welcome. Visit web.me.com/applepower.

• **GENEALOGY CLUB**, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, second Friday of each month, 1:30 p.m. Trade tips and techniques with others interested in family research and learn about genealogical resources located in the library. Visit www.rogerslibrary.org or call 886-6030 ext. 4522.

• **MANCHESTER RICHELIEU CLUB** meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Chateau Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. If you speak French, enhance your enjoyment of the language by becoming a member of this club. Call Walter Parenteau at 964-6925.

• **MANCHESTER STAMP CLUB** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Villa Crest Nursing Home, 1276 Hanover St., Manchester. Call Bob Dion at 625-5082.

• **NASHUA CAMERA CLUB** meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library. Each month there are three different topics chosen for competitions. Entries can be submitted either digitally or as prints no larger than 16"x20" (with mat) and no smaller than 8x10. Visitors and new members are always welcome. See www.nashua-cameraclubnh.org or contact Dave Marden at 305-7036 or dmarden1@myfairpoint.net.

• **NASHUA SWIM & TENNIS CLUB** (140 Lock St., Nashua, 883-0153, www.nashuaswimandtennis.com) offers lessons and club tournaments in tennis.

• **NH FLYING TIGERS** radio control flying club meets the last Wednesday of every month at the B-St. Flying Field, 1 B St., or Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway, Derry. Visit newhampshireflyingtigers.org.

• **PAEI ENERGY EXCHANGE** to discuss renewable energy. Visit plymouthenergy.org or call 536-5030.

• **PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM** camera club meets at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, on the first and third Monday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. This informal club offers educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Attend your first meeting free. Thereafter, dues are \$30 per year

for individuals, \$50 for families; full-time students pay \$15. See www.photographersforum.org.

• **RADIO CLUB** Radio Club meets first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at First Church of Nashua, 1 Concord St., Nashua. Go to www.n1fd.org.

• **SOUTHERN NH FLYING EAGLES** club meets at their flying field in Merrimack throughout the summer. Meetings are open to the public. Visit snhflyingeagles.org.

• **SOCRATES CAFÉ** second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Starbucks, 1111 South Willow St., Manchester. Contact Marc Berthiaume at Socrates-cafenh@comcast.net.

• **SOCRATES CAFE PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION** meets the first Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Lorden Plaza, Milford. Group is open to the public. Call 889-0839.

• **SOUHEGAN VALLEY BRIDGE PLAYERS** 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford; newcomers always welcome.

• **SOUTHERN NH RADIO CONTROL CLUB** on the second Tuesday of the month at Wagner Field on Old Landfill Road in Hudson. Visit snhrcc.org or e-mail Wally Adaszczik at president@snhrcc.org.

• **UNITED DIVERS OF NH** the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the YMCA in Manchester (30 Mechanic St.). Visitors are welcome. Visit udnh.org.

• **WRITER'S BLOCK** is a group of aspiring writers who meet up every Saturday in the Library Meeting Room at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Call 456-7728 after 5 p.m.

Men's

• **RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION** invites retirees to its meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Prime Time, 195 McGregor St. in Manchester. Coffee and donuts are available during the social mixing period of the meeting. Call 391-1663 or contact EJH@Juno.com.

Professional

• **CONCORD YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** meets third Wednesday each month. Call 224-2508 or e-mail rkinhan@concordnhchamber.com.

• **IUGO** is young professionals and is by the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce, nashua-chamber.com. No cost for membership. Go to iugonashua.com.

• **MANCHESTER ROTARY CLUB** at 12:15 p.m. at Fratello's Restaurant (155 Dow St., Manchester). Visit www.manchester-rotary.org.

• **MANCHESTER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK** meets monthly; see www.mypn.org.

• **NEW HAMPSHIRE CREATIVE CLUB** is an organization of creative professionals such as graphic designers, photographers, illustrators, copywriters, desktop publishers, printers, color separators and other professionals in related fields. The club serves as a creative forum for networking and education in the advertising and visual communications field through a series of monthly meet-

ings that include panel discussions, presentations and workshops. Visit nhcreativeclub.org.

Women

- **BPW NASHUA CHAPTER** The Business and Professional Women group (bpwnashua.com) on the third Thursday of the month at 11:15 a.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua. The luncheon meeting includes a keynote speaker and networking. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP is not necessary. There is a small charge for the meeting.
- **RETIRED WOMEN’S GROUP** at Prime Time, 195 McGregor St. in Manchester. Fourth Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Call 663-6333.
- **QUOTA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S CLUB** meets fourth Monday of each month. Quotarians are known for service to deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired individuals and disadvantaged women and children. Go to www.quotamanchesternh.org.
- **QUEEN CITY MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUB** support group for mothers, grandmothers, guardians and expectant mothers of multiples, www.queencitymothersoftwinsclub.com, meets at Knights of Columbus Hall, .Porter St., Manchester.
- **WOMAN’S CLUB OF CONCORD** meetings the Chamberlin House, 44 Pleasant St., Concord. Go to www.concordwomansclub.com.

CRAFTS

- Knitting**
- **BEGINNERS AND BEYOND** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Classes are Tuesdays at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 5:30 p.m., Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (alternating weeks), Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (alternating 1st and 3rd Saturdays). Six weekly two-hour sessions are \$60. Call 505-4432.
 - **BEYOND BEGINNER CROCHET** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Six weekly sessions for \$60. Call 505-4432.
 - **BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY** (16 Main St., Brookline, 673-3330, brookline.nh.us) has a knitting, crocheting and cross-stitch group that meets every Monday at 6 p.m. The group is informal and drop-ins are welcome.
 - **DROP-IN KNITTING CLUB** Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday, 3-4 p.m. Call 465-7721. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Compare patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips. Drop in, no sign-up required.
 - **DROP-IN STITCHERS** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needlework project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.
 - **THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers a variety of knitting classes and workshops as well as classes in felting and spinning.
 - **FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB** every Friday 6-10 p.m. at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Open project, no fee. Bring an existing project or start

In the spotlight



Acting classes

Ever feel like you’re destined to be a movie star, and you’re just waiting patiently to be discovered by a Hollywood agent? Perhaps your best bet is to attend an acting workshop. “The Artists’ Workout” is a workshop run by Whitebridge Farm Productions that uses exercises to enrich actors’ skills. Classes focus on different challenges, such as cold-readings or scene study. The next Artists’ Workout will take place at The Common Man Inn and Spas, 231 Main St., Plymouth, on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 10. Whitebridge Farm also offers “Acting for the Camera” classes at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 N. Main St., Concord, on Mondays, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19, designed to help actors become comfortable in front of the camera. To register for these classes and learn about others offered by Whitebridge Farm, visit www.whitebridgeproductions.com.

In the spotlight



Join the Freedom

Do you have what it takes to be a member of the Manchester Freedom, New Hampshire’s only tackle football team for women? Tryouts for the 2012 season will take place Sunday, Dec. 4, at 9 a.m. at West Memorial High School, 9 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. Bring a copy of your medical insurance card, government-issued ID and a \$50 training fee. Dress for the outdoor weather. Positions are open for women age 18 and older. Come eager and ready to learn. No prior football playing experience is necessary. Visit www.manchesterfreedom.com.

a new one. Call 505-4432.

- **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) hosts a learning-to-knit circle every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the adult room of the library. Tea and coffee are served.
- **KELLEY LIBRARY** (234 Main St., Salem, 898-7064, www.kelleylibrary.org) has a knitting circle on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. The weekly gatherings are open to Salem knitters of all skill levels. Members answer questions, offer tips and share techniques. No registration is required. Crocheters are welcome, too.
- **KNIT 1, CROCHET 2** drop-in stitch-fests held at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project and be inspired. Beginners will be able to get help selecting a project and the necessary supplies. There won’t be formal instruction, but members of the group help each other. Tea is served.
- **KNIT WITS** meets at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., Chester, the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Work on your craft, chat with others, and share your knowledge. This group is open to all who like to sew, crochet, knit and/or stitch. Contact the library at 887-3404.
- **KNITTING CLUB** every Tuesday at the Hollis Social Library, 3-4 p.m. in the library meeting room. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Have fun comparing patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips on stitches, sweaters and mittens. Drop in, no sign-up required.
- **KNITTING CLUB** every Friday, at 11 a.m., at West Manchester Library, 76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560. Both experienced and novice knitters are invited to attend. No registration required.
- **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2** Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) hosts a knitting group every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **NASHUA STITCH ’N BITCH** meets Mondays 7-10 p.m. at the café in Borders, 281 DW Hwy in Nashua. Drop-ins welcome. See kat.prettyposies.com/nashuasnb.
- **NEEDLES AND SHUTTLES** meets in The Fiber Studio, Foster Hill Road, Henniker. This informal group welcomes new and experienced knitters to share skills and conversation. Bring a knitting project. Call 428-7830.
- **NESMITH KNITTERS** meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham, 432-7154, www.nesmithlibrary.org). All skills and ages welcome.
- **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for the current schedule.
- **NIGHT AT THE SPOTTED SHEEP** is a free social evening every Wed. 6:30-8:30 p.m. for knitters and crocheters to relax with a project and share with others at the Spotted Sheep Yarn Shoppe, 9 Church St., Goffstown, 660-1115, spottedsheep yarnshoppe.com. New crafters welcome. Free.
- **SOCKS ON A 12” CIRCULAR NEEDLE** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road,

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Now’s a good time to head off problems

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

There are still a few nice days left before cold rain, snow and cold take over our weather systems, and I try to take advantage of these last warm, sunny days. Unfortunately, I’m not the only one. No, I hope you do, too. It’s those pesky, unwanted invasive shrubs in the understory of our woods and forests that I am referring to. I took a walk recently and noticed that there are plenty of bush honeysuckles enjoying the sunshine. Many still have green leaves (some are turning yellow now), allowing them to make energy by photosynthesis and store it for winter.

Go for a walk along a country road or into your woods. If you see bushy shrubs that still have green leaves, you are probably seeing Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maaackii*). This bush honeysuckle is able to grow in sun or shade, wet or dry. It is one of the first plants to get leaves in the spring, one of the last to lose them in fall. It shades out our native wildflowers and other native shrubs. It is taking over the landscape — but you can help control it now, when you don’t have so many other gardening tasks to occupy your time.

Amur honeysuckle can get to be 12 to 15 feet tall and wide. It is a floppy plant with yellowish-white blossoms in June and quarter-inch-diameter red berries. Birds eat the seeds and then distribute them in their droppings. It takes 3 to 5 years from germination to the time a honeysuckle produces flowers and berries.

The roots of this bush honeysuckle tend to be quite close to the surface of the soil, so pulling or digging them out is not very difficult. I recently spent part of a morning working to eliminate honeysuckle on my property. Here is what I found.

Pulling small to medium-sized honeysuckles does not require superhuman strength. I easily pulled shrubs that were 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. Larger specimens I just cut to the ground. Yes, they may re-sprout, come spring, but they won’t bloom and produce seeds next year. If I can go back each year and cut off new shoots, I will prevent the plant from spreading.

I recently spoke to Kari Asmus of Hanover, N.H., who has been digging up invasive plants on her property since she and her husband bought it 11 years ago. She recommends using a “weed wrench” for pulling medium to large honeysuckles, along with two small tree species, the glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), which are also invasive species on their property. A weed wrench (www.weedwrench.com) is a hand tool that gives you a nice mechanical advantage: it grabs onto a stem down low, and has a long handle to help you to pry out the root system with minimal effort.

Kari’s property is about 10 acres, and by keeping after the invasive plants each year, she has reduced their incidence to a point where they are not a problem. Native plants like bloodroot and wild ginger — absent when they bought the property — have returned and spread through their woods. Kari said fall and



Buckthorn, common. Henry Homeyer photo.



Honeysuckles. Henry Homeyer photo.

spring are the times to work on digging out problem plants. They have leaves when native plants do not. She said she has gotten to recognize the distinctive color of the leaves, even from a distance, so she can go right to a honeysuckle or buckthorn to pull it out. Seeds deposited years ago continue to germinate, but the young plants are easy to pull by hand.

The buckthorns get bigger than honeysuckles and are more difficult to eliminate. Although a honeysuckle, if cut down, may send up new shoots at the stump, it does not send up root suckers the way a buckthorn will. Root suckers are new shoots coming up from the roots that develop into full-size trees; they can pop up 10 feet or more from the parent tree. They are a stress response by certain trees: if cut down (or sometimes if they are infected with a lethal fungus), shoots develop.

Nelia Sargent of Claremont, N.H., taught me some years ago how to kill buckthorns without stimulating root suckers. She double girdles a buckthorn by cutting all the way around the trunk with a hand saw. She just cuts through the green cambium layer of bark, but does not

cut into the heartwood. Then she goes up 12 inches and does it again. She said it takes 3 years to kill the tree but no suckers are sent up. I tried it on a neighbor’s tree, and, by golly, it worked. However, the common buckthorn often has a trunk that can make it difficult to double girdle the tree: there are often up to a dozen trunks growing very closely together.

In my neighborhood the buckthorns have already lost their leaves, but the trees are loaded with dark berries, just waiting for hungry birds to come this winter for food. Each berry has three or four hard seeds, just waiting to be dropped somewhere so they can start new trees.

So if you are looking for a good project on the next sunny day, go look for invasives and see if you can get rid of a few.

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Derry, www.yamandfiber.com) on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Call 505-4432.

- **ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL** in Nashua is looking for volunteers to help knit or crochet comfort shawls for patients who may be seriously ill, undergoing medical procedures, emotionally or physically traumatized, seeking hope and healing or grieving. The need for shawls is ongoing and frequently the supply becomes depleted. Contact the Spiritual Care Department at St. Joseph Hospital at 882-3000, ext. 67800.
- **YARN AND FIBER COMPANY** (11 Manchester Road, Derry, 505-4432, www.yamandfiber.com) offers classes in knitting, as well as Friday night knitting club, and classes focused on a single piece.

Quilting

- **AMETHYST ROSE QUILT SHOP** (37 Crystal Ave. Unit 5, Derry, www.theamethystrosequiltshop.com, 489-8161) offers open quilt times, project-specific classes and more.
- **AMOSKEAG QUILTERS GUILD** meets at Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell St. in Manchester. Members pay \$3, guests pay \$5. See www.amoskeaggg.org.
- **BEDFORD FRIENDSHIP QUILT GUILD** meets the third Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the fellowship room of the Bedford Presbyterian Church to make quilts for children in Families in Transition. Call Pam Mikkola at 472-9225 or Lois Tourangeau at 424-0417.
- **THE CAPITAL QUILTERS**

GUILD (capitalquiltersguild.org) holds meetings the second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Havenwood Heritage Heights in Concord. The Guild also offers classes.

- **THE CHESTNUT QUILTER** (167 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, 647-8458, thechestnutquilter.com) offers Monday and Wednesday morning classes from 9 a.m. to noon that cost \$15 per session.
- **GIRLS NIGHT OUT** at Pine Tree Quilt Shop (224 North Broadway, Salem, pinetreequiltshop.com) on Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$15 per month. Call 870-8100.
- **HANNAH DUSTIN QUILT GUILD** meets at Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Avenue, Hudson. Meetings are on the first Monday of the month from October through June, and on the second Monday in September. Go to www.hannahdustingq.org or call Elyse at 635-7436.
- **KEARSARGE QUILTERS** meet on the second Tuesday of each month, 1-3 p.m., at MainStreet BookEnds (16 East Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com)
- **NASHUA SEW AND VAC** (228 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-2757 nashuasewandvac.com) offers classes in quilting and sewing, including classes for children.
- **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for current schedule.
- **NH STATE QUILTERS ASSOCIATION** (nhsqa.org) offers membership for \$10 per year.
- **NH QUILTERS’ EMPORIUM** (Pennichuck Square on Route 101A,

707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 880-0300, nhqe.com) offers classes in quilting.

- **PEGGY ANNE’S QUILTING & SEWING** 57 North Main St., Concord, 223-2344, peggyannes.com offers classes in quilting, sewing and more.
- **PINE TREE QUILT SHOP** (224 North Broadway, Salem, 870-8100, pinetreequiltshop.com) offers quilting classes for all levels of ability. See website for a complete list.

Scrapbooking & paper

- **HOLIDAY ORIGAMI WORKSHOP** will take place on Thus., Dec. 3 from 10-12 a.m. at the Nashua Library on 2 Court St., Nashua. Karen Beaver, who teaches craft classes at many venues and works in the library’s Music/Art/Media Department, will spread her skills at a two-hour origami workshop. The class is open to adults and teens 14 and up, and they can register at www.tinyurl.com. Call 603-589-4610.
- **PAPER MACHE DEMONSTRATION** on Sat., Dec. 10, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Artist Kathy Marx of will provide demonstrations on paper mache and creating crafts on recycled and “found” materials at the League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Retail Gallery, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith. Call 279-7920 or email nhcraft@metrocast.net.
- **AMANDALIZ SCRAPBOOK COMPANY** (135 Route 101A, Carriage Depot Plaza, Amherst, 886-4544, www.amandalinz.com) offers classes on building theme pages, with themes like back to school or the Red Sox.
- **FREE CROP** at Scrappin’ Soul

Sisters (7 Perely St., Concord, www.scrappinsoulsisters.com) Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **MARY’S MEMORIES** (12 Clark Road, Milford, 249-8978, www.marysmemories.com) offers individual lessons, one-session workshops and a basic scrapbooking class.
- **NH SCRAPBOOK CABIN** 294 Route 101 at Greeley Point in Amherst (next to Salzburg Square), www.nhscrapbookcabin.com, 769-3333, offers a variety of scrapbooking classes.
- **PAPER TECHNIQUES** workshops will be held at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson, on the first Thursday of the month, 2:30-4 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. Learn how to make things out of paper. Projects include scrapbooking, card-making, stamping, quilting and decoupage. Pre-register at 886-6030.
- **THE PAPER TREE** (865 Second St. in Manchester, 624-8800, www.thepapertree.net) offers one-day classes for different paper art projects and aspects of scrapbooking as well as open studio time. Daytime and weekend classes available.
- **SCRAPBOOK ISLAND** (15 West Broadway, Derry, 421-2881, derryscrapbookisland.com) offers various classes along with Ladies Layout Night Club on the first Wednesday of the month. Visit the website for a full list of classes.
- **SCRAPPIN’ SOUL SISTERS** (7 Perley St., Concord, 717-7136, www.scrappinsoulsisters.com) offers classes and crops, which are gatherings where scrapbookers get together to work on projects and share ideas (crops feature food and run from 6

p.m. to midnight every other Friday).

- **TALK PAPER SCISSORS** (Willow Tree Plaza, 575 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-8009, www.talkpaperscissors.com) offers introductory scrapbooking classes as well as classes on specific aspects of scrapbooking (collage-making, art journaling) and on crafts such as card-making and lampshade-decorating.

Other

- **GREENS GATHERING HIKE & WREATH MAKING** workshop at Brown Lane Barn, 52 Brown Lane, Hollis, takes place Thurs., Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$25. Call 465-7787 or visit www.beaverbrook.org.
- **DOLL PAINTING WORKSHOP** will be offered by Marina Forbes, an artist who will be lecturing on the Russian folk tradition of Matryoshka (wooden nested doll) painting on Sat., Dec. 3, from 10:30 am. to 1:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Open to adults and families with children 6 and older. To pre-register, call the Peterborough Town Library at 924-8040.
- **FAMILY WREATH MAKING** will be held at Amoskeag Fishways on Fri. Dec. 2 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Use all-natural materials to make fragrant, long-lasting wreath and other decorations. Cost is \$15 per wreath. Advanced registration with payment required. Call 603-626-3474 or visit www.amoskeagfishways.org.
- **MAKING OF THE 2011 ANNUAL ORNAMENT** with Walker Boyle will take place on Sat. Dec. 3

from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Meredith Retail Gallery, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith. Boyle will demonstrate how he creates ornaments out of wax, and attendees can also pick up 2011 Leage of N.H. Craftsmen’ Annual Ornaments. Call 279-7920 or email nhcraft@metrocast.net.

• **PAROL-MAKING WORKSHOP** will be hosted by the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough) on Sun., Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Parols in the Phillipines are stars made from paper, glass and cellophane that are hung in churches, homes or businesses during the holiday season. All are welcome, and admission is \$10 for those creating a large parol and \$5 for those making a small one. Visit www.mariposamuseum.org.

• **HOLIDAY GREENS** is a program that will teach children how to make authentic Holiday Swags out of Evergreens at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Mon., Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. Program is for children ages 5-8. Sign up online at <http://hollislibrary.org> contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

• **CHRISTMAS CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP** will be offered at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd., Hudson, on Wed., Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required by Fri., Dec. 2. Call 886-6030 or visit www.rodgerslibrary.org and register under “upcoming events.” The only charge will be the cost of materials.

• **RECYCLED CARD ORNAMENT WORKSHOP** will be held at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tues., Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. For ages 11 to 17. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **TIME CAPSULES** can be made at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blanchard Room. Capsules to be opened in 2013! Free event.

DANCE

- **Arthur Murray Dance Studio** 99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, learntodancetoday.com
 - **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC** 250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com
 - **Dance International Studio** 83 Hanover St., Manchester, 858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm
 - **Kathy Blake Dance Studios** 3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst, 673-3978, kathyblakedances-studios.com
 - **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio** 352 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-9350, krystalballroom.com
 - **Let's Dance Studio** 5 North Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancenrh.com
 - **Mill-A-Round Dance Center** 250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com
 - **N-Step Dance Center** 2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103 603-641-6787 nstepdance.com
 - **Paper Moon Dance Center** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com
 - **Queen City Ballroom** 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com
 - **Royal Palace Dance Studio** 167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com
 - **Senior Activity Center** 70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155
 - **Steppin' Out Dance Studio** 1201 Westford St., Lowell, 978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com
- Ballroom classes & dances**
- **BALLROOM DANCE NIGHT** at the Rockingham Ballroom, 22 Ash Swamp Road Newmarket, Sat., Nov. 26. Event to include live music with the Fred Manzi Trio. Doors open at 7 p.m., music and dancing goes from 7:30-11 p.m. Admission is \$14 per person. Cash bar and snacks available.
 - **ARGENTINE TANGO CLASS** Sundays from 3 to 3:45 p.m. (beginner) and 4 to 4:45 p.m. (intermediate) at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. A practica will follow, from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Costs \$12 per afternoon, practica costs \$5. Singles and couples welcome. To register, contact Randy at 547-0402 or litangonh@gmail.com. Call 622-1500 or go to www.queencityballroomnh.com.
 - **ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO** (99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, arthurmurray.com) offers classes in ballroom and a variety of other styles. There are also classes specifically for wedding instruction. E-mail info@amdsnh.com.
 - **BALLROOM PARTY** Sunday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Queen City Ballroom Dance Studio, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester. These parties are beginner-friendly with mixer dances and light refreshments. Hardwood floor, recorded music, friendly crowd, smoke- and alcohol-free. Singles and couples welcome. Please bring a change of shoes to protect the dance floor. Start any week, and get free admission your first time. Costs \$9 per person. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.
 - **BEGINNER BALLROOM**

In the spotlight



Light up your own life

Never mind those new fluorescent bulbs — what you want is sunlight, right? Attend the Full Spectrum Lighting Lecture at the Holistic Self Care Center (12 Murphy Drive, Nashua) on Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 7 p.m. Wellness consultant Gary Domurad will talk about the benefits of full spectrum lighting and discuss how it can improve a night's sleep. RSVP by calling 883-1490. Visit www.thehsccenter.com or e-mail info@thehsccenter.com.

SAMPLER at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Learn the basics of 12 popular partner dances, such as waltz, foxtrot, hustle, swing, cha-cha and tango. Start any week. Classes are run on a rotating basis with each week focusing on two different dances. Costs \$5 per person per class. For new students, the first sampler class is free. Discounts available for multiple classes. No partner is required. No pre-registration required. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCityBalm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **CHOREOGRAPHED BALLROOM LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windmere Drive, Epsom, Thursdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **FOX TROT AND WALTZ** Royal Palace Dance Studio on Thursdays, 6:15-7 p.m. is beginner foxtrot and 7-7:45 p.m. is intermediate waltz. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY AND SHOWCASE** hosted by Queen City Ballroom on Sun., Dec. 11, 1-5 p.m., will be held at the Radisson hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Semi-formal. Beginners welcome. Singles and couples welcome. Door prizes, cash bar, DJ. Tickets \$12 per person if purchased by Nov. 20, \$16 by Dec. 10, \$20 at the door. Call 622-1500 or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com. Tickets available by phone or in the studio at 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester.

• **HUSTLE** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., 2nd floor, Manchester, every Monday night. Beginner class from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. and intermediate class from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Costs \$10 per person per class. Singles and couples are welcome, as well as drop-ins. Call 622-1500, e-mail QnCityBalm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **KATHY BLAKE DANCE STUDIO** (3 Northern Blvd., Amherst, 673-3978, www.kathyblakedances.com) offers Latin, swing and ballroom dance classes as well as jazz, hip-hop, tap and other styles strictly for adults.

• **LET'S DANCE STUDIO** (5 Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancenrh.com) has group classes, private lessons, practice sessions, monthly balls, workshops, and wedding dance instruction. Dances taught include tango, waltz, foxtrot, hustle, salsa, merengue, swing, cha-cha, and ballroom. Ballroom and Argentine dancing every Thurs., 8-10 p.m., cost is \$5.

• **LONDONDERRY DANCE ACADEMY** (21 Buttrick Road, 432-0032, www.londonderrydance.com) Ballet, pointe, hip-hop, tap,

jazz, contemporary, creative movement, pre-dance, yoga, body conditioning, and adult ballet. Home of the New England Dance Ensemble, and the Triple Threat Theater Camp.

• **MILL-A-ROUND DANCE CENTER** (250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com), offers classes in line, round and square dancing.

• **NASHUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (505 Amherst St., Nashua, 882-7022, nashuacc.edu), offers classes for couple in ballroom, Latin, and waltz.

• **OPEN DANCE AND THEME BALL** hosted by Let's Dance Studio in Concord every Thurs., 8-10 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person per visit or advance payment \$45 for 3 months, with a free group class for a month. Parties and Balls are free for first-time visitors, current group students and all private students past and present.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com), offers group and private lessons, social dance parties and wedding dance instruction. Classes are offered in smooth, rhythm, club, standard and Latin dances. Dance parties are offered every Sat.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (Studios in Merrimack, Nashua, Concord & Amherst, 429-1100, papermoondance.com). Beginner classes Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.; \$50 for the month for unlimited group classes (includes all levels, 8 per week total).

• **PRACTICE PARTY** every Fri. at the Royal Palace Dance Studio (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com), open to the public from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome.

• **ROYAL PALACE DANCE STUDIO** (167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com) offers group lessons in salsa, Latin, ballroom, rhythm, smooth dances, hip-hop, and aerobic dances along with private dance lessons.

• **SALSA** at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester. Club-style salsa classes with Masacote Entertainment are taught on Wednesday nights. The 45-minute classes are \$45 per person for the month or \$15 per person drop-in: Beginner Partnering at 6 p.m., Beginner Footwork at 6:45 p.m., Intermediate Partnering at 6:45 p.m., Advanced Footwork Challenge at 7:30 p.m. and Advanced Partnering at 8:15 p.m. The Adult Performance Team is at 9 p.m. A new beginner series starts on the first Wednesday of the month. To register, call 617-875-9006, e-mail infomasacote@gmail.com or go to www.salsanewhampshire.com. For info on Queen City Ballroom, call 622-1500, e-mail QnCityBalm@aol.com or visit [## Seriously Injured?](http://www.queencityball-</p>
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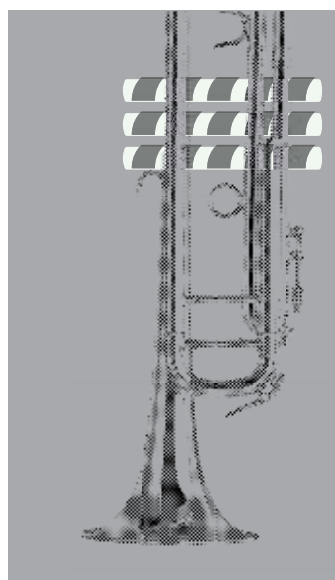
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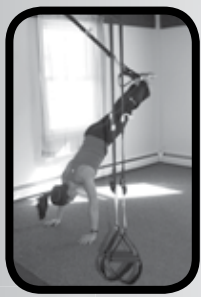
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roomnh.com.

• **SAMBA AND TANGO** at the Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays, intermediate samba from 7 to 7:45 p.m., and intermediate Tango from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

• **SOCIAL DANCING** Paper Moon Dance Center sponsors dances at Kathy Blake Dance Studio (3 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 429-1100, www.papermoondance.com). Two rooms of ballroom, Latin & swing dancing the second & fourth Sat. of each month from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$10, includes light refreshments.

• **STEPPIN' OUT DANCE STUDIO** (1201 Westford St. Lowell, Mass., 452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com) offers ballroom, swing, and salsa classes along with social dances and wedding dance instruction.

• **SWING DANCING** at the Royal Palace Dance Studio on Mondays at 7 p.m., visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **TANGO CLASSES** at the Mariposa (26 Main St., in Peterborough, 924-4555, www.mariposamuseum.org) every Wed., 7-8:30 p.m.

• **WEST COAST SWING** classes on Sunday afternoons at Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St., Manchester, combine swing dancing with R&B, funk, pop, jazz and blues. Instructor Jonathan Barbeau offers a beginner lesson 2-2:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 2:30-3:15 p.m. \$10 per person for either or both lessons. No pre-registration necessary. Classes focus on exploration and fun. Call 622-1500 or e-mail QnCityBalm@aol.com or visit www.queencityballroomnh.com.

Belly Dance Classes

• **BOW COMMUNITY BUILDING** (2 Knox Road, Bow) on Thursdays 5:45-6:45 p.m. \$54 (\$49 for residents). Call Tracey at 225-3774.

• **HOLISTIC SELF CARE CENTER** on Saturdays, noon-1 p.m. Four classes cost \$40, drop-in fee is \$12. Call 883-1490 and visit thehsc-center.com.

• **PAPER MOON DANCE CENTER** (515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com) on Mondays at 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Cost is \$15 for drop-in, or \$45 for a month.

• **STYLING SOULS** 832 Elm St., Manchester on Sundays at 6 p.m., cost is \$12 per class. Visit www.stylingsouls.com.

Folk Classes and Dance

• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.

• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.

• **CIRCLE 9 RANCH** (30 Windymere Drive, Epsom, 736-9656, hosts a dance lesson every Saturday at 7 p.m. through August. See www.circle9ranch.com.

• **HAPPY TIME SQUARES** meets

In the spotlight



Dream work

Another installment of the monthly Dreamwork Community Group with dream teacher Susan Morgan takes place on Friday, Dec. 2, at Nia NH and Yoga at 76 Route 101A, Amherst. Morgan is also a shamanic practitioner, holistic healer, visual artist and writer. She'll guide participants in dream reading and techniques for accessing dreams. Bring a notebook or journal. The cost of the event is \$27, and pre-registration is required. Call 562-7525 or visit www.nianhandyoga.com/events.

every Wednesday in the Community Room of the Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester. Members range from 8 to 80, and anyone interested in learning about Contemporary Square Dance is encouraged to attend. See www.happytimesquares.org.

• **MILL CITY CONTRA DANCE** at the Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St., Manchester, the third Friday of every month. A beginners' workshop takes place at 7:30 p.m., while the dance goes from 8 to 11 p.m. No partner necessary; all dances taught. Costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for students (under 12 free). See tinyurl.com/Mill-City-Contra.

• **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.

• **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.

• **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.

• **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuascd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenk, 352-6968). Visit rsdcsboston.org for a complete list.

• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

• **WORLD DANCE** on second and fourth Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford. All dances taught

each night. Call 487-2732 or e-mail maryfloyd62@comcast.net.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

- **Catholic Medical Center**
100 McGregor St., Manchester, 626-2626, catholicmedicalcenter.org
- **Concord Hospital**
250 Pleasant St., Concord, 225-2711, concordhospital.org
- **Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic**
100 Hitchcock Way, Manchester, 695-2500, dartmouth-hitchcock.org
- **Elliot Hospital**
One Elliot Way, Manchester, 669-5300, elliithospital.org
- **Manchester Community Health Center**
145 Hollis Street., Manchester, 626-9500, mchc-nh.org
- **The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester**
401 Cypress St., Manchester, 668-4111, mhcgmm.org
- **NH Hospice and Palliative Care Organization**
125 Airport Road, Concord, 225-0900, nhhpc.org
- **Parkland Medical Center**
One Parkland Drive, Derry, 432-1500, parklandmedicalcenter.com
- **Southern N.H. Medical Center**
8 Prospect St., Nashua, 577-2255, snhmc.org
- **St. Joseph Hospital**
172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhospital.com
- **Visiting Nurse Association**
33 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 622-3781, manchestervna.org

OTHER


- **American Red Cross**
1800 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4307, redcrossmanchester.org
- **28 Concord St., Nashua**, 889-6664, nashua.redcross.org
- **2 Maitland St., Concord**, 225-6697, concord-redcross.org
- **The Children's Place and Parent Education Center**
27 Burns Ave. in Concord, 224-9920, thechildrensplacenh.org
- **The Compassionate Friends Greater Manchester Chapter**
tcfinmanchester.org
- **Daniel Webster College**
20 University Dr., Nashua, 577-6625, dwc.edu
- **Easter Seals NH**
555 Auburn St., 623-8863, nh.easterseals.com
- **Full Spectrum Wellness LLC**
55 South Commercial St., Manchester, 296-0830, fullspectrumwellness.com
- **Greater Manchester YMCA**
30 Mechanic St., 623-3558, gmfyymca.org
- **Healing Hands Chiropractic**
25 Nashua Rd Suite F2 in

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073427

Turn signals can fail intermittently



Dear Tom and Ray:
I currently have the misfortune of needing to drive a beat-up 1995 Volvo 850, which I share with my husband, who fancies himself an expert on cars. As a general rule, I try not to argue with him on any subject involving cars (or, for that matter, about anything else, since reason and logic are not his strong points). Alas, during this past week, something about this wretched Volvo went wrong, forcing me to open a dialogue with Mr. Know-It-All-About-Cars. Out of the blue, the blinkers (the right and left signals) quit working. Once in a while, the signals work, but most of the time they don't. My husband stubbornly refuses to believe that they don't work. He claims that they are working just fine for him, ergo I must be doing something to keep them from working! He says he won't look into fixing it unless he experiences the

problem himself. Is it unusual for signals to work intermittently? Can you please help me, ASAP? — Terry

RAY: Gee, this guy sounds like a real gem, Terry. How do you keep the other girls away from him?

TOM: The blinkers absolutely can fail intermittently. A lot of electronic parts fail that way. There are three things that could be at fault here.

RAY: The cheapest, and easiest to fix, is the hazard switch. The hazard switch in this car contains a relay, which also is used by the directional switch. If the relay is sticky, that can cause the directionals to fail sometimes.

TOM: It would cause your hazard lights to fail, too. So next time this happens, try turning on the hazard lights to see if they're working normally. If not, buy a new hazard-light switch, gently pry the old one out of its hole in the dashboard, plug in the new one and you're done. That'll cost you about \$50.

RAY: The second possibility is that the directional switch itself — the stalk that sticks out of the steering column — is failing. That's also pretty easy to fix, since most Volvos of that era used a dedicated directional stalk, rather than the multipurpose switches (lights, high beams, etc.) that you see on lots of other cars. If that's the part that's dying, you're looking at spending around \$100.

TOM: And if it's neither of those,

then unfortunately the problem probably is in the ignition switch. Volvo 850s are famous for worn-out ignition switches.

RAY: What happens is that when you start the car, you push the key past the "run" position to the "start" position until it cranks and starts. Then you let go of the key, and it's supposed to spring back to the "run" position. But on these cars, the key often will not spring back all the way. And since much of the car's electrical equipment runs through the ignition switch, a bad switch can lead to all kinds of electrical shenanigans.

TOM: You can test that theory by lightly jiggling the key in the ignition next time the blinkers fail. If you can get them to work that way, you may have found the problem. But that's an expensive part. It'll probably run you about \$300.

RAY: And if none of those ideas works, you'll have to divorce your husband and use the settlement to buy a new car, Terry. That'll cost HIM \$100,000. Remind him of that if he keeps refusing to help you.

Dear Tom and Ray:
Hi, guys! I've always wondered why there aren't any front-wheel-drive pickups. I would think they'd be a nice alternative to more-expensive four-wheel-drive pickups, and a lot easier to handle than rear-wheel-drive pickups on slippery roads. Got

any insights to offer on this? — Rick

RAY: It's been done, Rick. Volkswagen made a pickup version of its front-wheel-drive Rabbit from 1979 to 1982. You can tell what a smashing success that was by all the Rabbit Pickups you see on the road these days!

TOM: It can be done, of course. Toyota even has a prototype of a hybrid front-wheel-drive pickup that's been floating around for a few years. So someone probably will do it at some point, especially as the demand for better fuel economy increases, and pickup-truck sizes decrease.

RAY: Such a truck might be useful for "light-duty picking up," but there are two design issues that make it somewhat undesirable as a traditional work truck.

TOM: First, there's very little weight in the back of a pickup, even with rear-wheel drive. And if you remove the drive shaft and rear differential, you leave almost no weight back there. That means when the pickup bed is empty, there's no weight to keep the rear wheels pushed down to the ground.

RAY: That would make the rear end of the pickup vulnerable to sliding around — which would cause you to lose control of the vehicle.

TOM: And while electronic stability control can help, it's got to start with something to stabilize! You can deal with that by increasing

the size of the passenger cabin and adding a real back seat and/or rear doors. But then you leave less room for the bed.

RAY: The other problem is that when you load up the bed with heavy materials, you weigh down the rear axle and "lift weight" off the front axle. So, if you had a heavy load in a front-wheel-drive pickup truck, you could find yourself in a situation where you'd have a tough time getting traction from the front wheels.

TOM: So we may yet see a front-wheel-drive pickup truck at some point. But it's going to be a "lifestyle" vehicle (i.e., designed to help you look cool), not a real work truck.

If you buy a used car, will you just be inheriting the previous owner's problem? Tom and Ray dispel this and other myths about used cars in their pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com. (c) 2011 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Londonderry, 434-3456
501 Riverway Place in Bedford,
647-0600; healinghandsnh.com
• **The Holistic Self Care Center**
12 Murphy Drive in Nashua,
883-1490, thehsccenter.com
• **Manchester Health Department Community Health Division**
1528 Elm St. in Manchester,
624-6466, manchesternh.gov
• **Nashua Division of Public Health & Community Services**
18 Mulberry St. in Nashua,
589-4560, gonashua.com
• **Nashua Senior Center**
70 Temple St. In Nashua,
889-6155, nashuaseniorcenter.org
• **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)**
1-800-242-6264, naminh.org
• **Naturopathic Clinic of Concord**
46 S. Main St. in Concord, 228-0407, concordnaturopathic.com
• **Pastoral Counseling Services**
2013 Elm St., Manchester, 627-2702, pcs-nh.org
• **William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center**
151 Douglas St. in Manchester,
624-6536, manchesternh.gov
• **Women Supporting Women**
111 Water St., Exeter, 772-0799, wswcenter.com
• **YWCA**
72 Concord St., Manchester,
625-5785, ywcaca.org
Workshops
• **PRICKLY PEAR POETRY PROJ-**

ECT "Processing the Cancer Experience through Poetry" will take place on Tues., Dec. 6, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Parkland Medical Center in the Lahey Center for Oncology and Hematology. Poets Kyle Potvin of Derry and Tammi Traux of Portsmouth will lead the two-hour workshop, which will include cancer-influenced poetry readings. Participants will also be encouraged to compose their own poetry through writing exercises. No previous writing experience is required. Free admission. Call 537-2060.

Exercise/Fitness

• **CARDIO BOOTCAMP** RHT Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, www.nhkick.com.
• **DYNAMIC STRENGTH AND FITNESS** 115 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 882-2348. Visit www.DynamicSC.com for more information.
• **FIT TO BE TONED** (200 Elm St., Manchester, 505-0042, www.fittobetoned.com) offers a boot camp class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. It incorporates kickboxing into a fitness routine including core training, squats, lunges and leg conditioning.
• **GET FIT NH BOOT CAMP** has two studios, 167 New Orchard Road, Epsom and 287 S. Main St., Concord. Offers classes Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays, including ladies-only classes. Sessions run for four consecutive weeks. To receive a free two-week tryout, e-mail getfitnh@gmail.com or call 344-2651 to reserve your spot, as space is limited.

Visit www.getfitnhbootcamp.com.
• **GENTLE NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health, wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail info@thehsccenter.com, or go to www.thehsccenter.com.
• **HULA HOOPS** fitness classes with Nicole Vincent. E-mail flashbackhoops@comcast.net or go to www.flashbackhoops.com.
• **JAZZERCISE** at the Jazzercise Fitness Center at 259 Hanover St. in Manchester, 624-9122, manchjazz.com, including body sculpting classes, low- impact/high-intensity classes and more. Childcare is available at 9:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on weekdays.
• **JAZZERCISE** the Southern NH Jazzercise at 28 Lowell Road, Hudson, offers 33 weekly classes in Jazzercise and body sculpting. Contact Cindy Robinson at 880-0887 or cindyjazz1@comcast.net. For other locations, go to jazzercise.com or call 800-FIT-IS-IT.
• **NLP ELITE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St., Manchester, www.nlpspeed.com) Offers classes strength, speed, agility, flexibility and injury prevention for athletes ages 11 and up on Mon.,

Wed., Thurs. and Fri. Call 627-7500.
• **NLP FITNESS BOOTCAMP** Next Level Performance (31 South Commercial St, Manchester, nlpfitcamp.com) specific fitness instruction, nutritional coaching and training for improved quality of life. Thirty classes a week. Call 627-7500 for class times and dates.
• **ON THE MOVE FITNESS & CONDITIONING** (289-3088, onthemovefit.net) offers an Extreme Fitness Boot Camp, a Women's Fitness Boot Camp, Boot Camp Basic, and Team Fitness Boot Camp.
• **PERFECTFIT** (perfectfitonline.com, 641-8297) fitness consultant and personal fitness trainer Dave Soucy offers small group classes featuring circuit training with full-body movements.
• **PILATES MAT** at Yoga & More (505 W. Hollis St. Suite 106 Nashua, 889-1121, yogaandmorenh.com) on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn the fundamentals of the Pilates technique as taught by founder Joseph Pilates. Drop-in fee is \$15.
• **CONCORD PILATES** (2 Pillsbury St., Ste #302, Concord, 369-0550, www.ConcordPilates.com) Classes are Monday at 5 p.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday at 9 a.m., Thursday at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday at 10 a.m. First week costs \$20.
• **PILATES** by Deerfield Parks and Rec., Studio 59 at the George B. White Bldg., 8 Raymond Road, on Wed. and Fri. at 10 a.m. Visit [\[deerfieldnh.com\]\(http://deerfieldnh.com\) or e-mail \[dfl-dparks@townofdeerfield.com\]\(mailto:dfl-dparks@townofdeerfield.com\) or call 463-8811 ext. 305.
• **PILATES** Martial Arts, 68 North Stark Hwy. in Weare. Call 529-5425.
• **PILATES** NH and Yoga, 76 Route 101A, Amherst. Classes will be held Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. and Mondays 8:15-9:15 a.m. To register call 562-7525.
• **RTH MARTIAL ARTS AND WELLNESS**, 68 North Stark, Hwy., Weare, 529-5425, offers health and wellness classes including zumba, yoga, pilates, yang tai chi chuan and more. Go to \[www.nhkick.com\]\(http://www.nhkick.com\).
• **STRAFFORD COUNTY YMCA** fitness classes including kickboxing, cardio combo, and conditioning combo, at the Strafford County YMCA located at 63 Lowell St., Rochester. Contact Brent Diesel at 332-7334 or \[bdiesel@gmfymca.org\]\(mailto:bdiesel@gmfymca.org\).
• **TRADITIONAL NIA** The Holistic Self Care Center, 12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. Nia is a sensory-based movement lifestyle that leads to health, wellness and fitness and draws from disciplines of the martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. To sign up, call 883-1490, e-mail \[info@thehsccenter.com\]\(mailto:info@thehsccenter.com\), or go to \[www.thehsccenter.com\]\(http://www.thehsccenter.com\).
• **TRAINING EFFECTS NH** \(434-9281, \[trainingeffectsnh.com\]\(http://trainingeffectsnh.com\)\) in Londonderry offers group boot camp program to promote cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, flexibility and bal-](http://townof-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

ance. Meets Friday at 9:30 a.m.
• **WELLNESS CENTER CLASSES** WellSpace New Hampshire, 633 Maple St., Hopkinton. Offering fitness classes of all levels, tai chi for arthritis and qigong, strength training, boot camp, yoga, personal training, mindful meditation, children's dance classes and nutrition & weight loss programs. Call Jane Sullivan-Durand MD, founder of WellSpace NH at 746-4626 or SmiSarasvati@yahoo.com
• **YMCA** of Greater Manchester offers a wide variety of fitness classes. Visit www.manchesterymca.org or call 623-3558.
• **ZUMBA** Mon. and Thurs. at 5:30 p.m., Tues. at 5:45 p.m., first class free, at Royal Palace Dance Studio, 167 Elm St., Manchester, RoyalPalaceDance.com.
• **ZUMBA** McConnell Center Gym in Dover offers classes every Wed., from 7 to 8 p.m., Sat., from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sun., from 10 to 11 a.m. A six-week session costs \$30 for Dover residents (\$35 for non-residents). Drop-ins are also welcome. New classes start every six to seven weeks. Zumba is a fun and easy dance-fitness program designed for people of all ages and levels of fitness. Contact the Dover Rec Center at 516-6401 or the instructor, Diana Post, at 969-6413.
• **ZUMBA** Kaleo Coffee, 83 Main St., Dover, 343-4139, every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Diana Post is the instructor for this weekly class. Drop-in fee is \$5 per person.

LANGUAGE

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** community classes at 168 South River Road, Bedford. Also offers tutoring, private lessons, workshops and online classes. See www.teachmesignlanguage.com for more information.

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua, begins Thurs., Oct. 13. This six-week class focuses on basic signing techniques and interpretation as well as deaf cultural awareness. The cost of the course is \$90 plus a book fee. Register at the Adult Learning Center, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or call 882-9080 ext. 201.

• **CHINESE** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **CHINESE** language programs from the Derry Chinese School, including preschool, elementary, intermediate, teen and adult programs, in Derry. All classes are Saturday mornings at the Marion Gerrish Community Center (39 W. Broadway, Derry). Call 888-928-8470 and visit www.derrychinese-school.org.

• **CHINESE** classes at Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester, include conversational Chinese for young learners, as well as advanced study of Chinese language and literature. To register contact Ying Xia Peterson at 224-0164 or yxpeterston@comcast.net.

• **CHINESE MANDARIN** classes at New Hampshire Chinese School (in Concord at West Congregational Church, 499 North State St.; in Nashua at Girls Inc. of NH, 27 Burke St.; in Manchester, Belknap Hall at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road) on weeknights and Saturdays. Levels range from preschool to adult, beginner to advanced. Classes run year-round. Visit www.nhChineseschool.org or call 557-3836.

• **ESPERANTO** international language courses at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, 4 Elm St. in Manchester. Register by e-mail to Jack Stanton at cw3jack_stan@mindspring.com.

• **FRENCH** Franco-American Centre (Manchester, 641-7114, facnh.com) offers adult and youth classes for beginner through advanced learners. Tuition is \$250 for 8 weeks. Most classes are 75 minutes. There is a mandatory yearly student Centre membership fee of \$35. To register, call the Centre or e-mail Pauline Guimond Grant, French Classes Coordinator, at cpgrant@comcast.net.

• **FRENCH** Club Richelieu for French-speakers in Greater Nashua holds dinner meetings at 6 p.m. on second Wednesdays at the Radisson, 11 Tara Blvd. in Nashua. Call 889-7112.

• **GERMAN** NHGA German School offers classes at the Currier Museum for adult beginners with no knowledge of German, those with limited abilities, and those at advanced levels. Classes are conducted using German textbooks in an informal, speech-intensive manner, emphasizing German conversation, traditions and culture. Visit nhgerman.org.

• **GREEK** classes for adults (beginner & intermediate) meet Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester). Reinforce and review your conversation & writing skills. Free. Call 497-4581.

• **HEBREW** at Congregation Betenu

In the spotlight



Russian Christmas

Learn about Christmas abroad at the Russian Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check out an exhibit of contemporary Russian art and traditional Russian icons. Explore Russian story-telling and learn the history behind the crafts. You'll see Matryoshka (nested doll) sets, Khokhlama bowls, spoons, candlesticks, hand-painted eggs, figurines, Russian holiday greeting cards and carved wooden toys. Visitors will also have a chance to paint Russian Troika and Grandfather Frost Christmas cards for small contributions. Proceeds support New England Language Center cultural programs. Call Marina Forbes at 332-2255 or e-mail her at marina@anylanguage.org. The bazaar is free and open to the public. Pictured: "Christmas Walk" watercolor by Marina Forbes.

(5 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 886-1633, www.betenu.org). Hebrew language instruction; reading, writing, grammar, comprehension, conversational vocabulary, Biblical insights and more for ages 13 and up on Monday evenings. Classes are taught by veteran instructor, Rahel. For more information call 886-1633, email betenu@nii.net or visit www.betenu.org.

• **IRISH** Conradh na Gaeilge of New England, a nonprofit Irish language organization, offers low-cost Irish (Gaelic) language classes for all levels in Manchester. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons this fall, and are organized in 12-week sessions. For more information, go to www.gaeilge.org/manchester.html or call 508-797-9482.

• **ITALIAN** for beginners at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. A 10-week course covering the basics of Italian conversation will begin Mon., Oct. 17. The cost of the course is \$120 plus a book fee. Register at the Adult Learning Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 882-9080 ext. 201.

• **ITALIAN** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. Meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 589-4610.

• **ITALIAN** Bedford Italian Cultural Society holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library on Meetinghouse Road. Parliamo Italiano chat sessions meet every Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library. Membership is \$15 per year. Contact Virginia at 472-2592 or visit BICS website at www.bics-nh.org.

• **LITHUANIAN** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets Saturdays at 10 a.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** All Learners, LLC, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford, offers French and Spanish classes. Adult classes are on Tuesday evenings. Pre-registration is required. Call 986-7001 or e-mail office@all-learners.com.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** Concord Community Education (170 Warren St., 225-0804, classes-forlife.com) regularly offers courses in languages.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** "I Can Speak" language-learning software is available at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) for Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Russian and Portuguese. The software consists of 20 to 40

hours of intro material using listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** at New England Language Center in Rochester. Conversational Spanish, German, Russian, French, Italian, Portuguese, Swahili and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will start the week of Oct. 3. Classes are available in eight-week sessions or flexible, individual instruction.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Rodgers Memorial Library, Derry Road, Hudson. Mango Language Learning System teaches foreign language (Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian) and ESL conversational skills. Can visit library or log on from home through the library's website at www.rodgerslibrary.org. Call 886-6030.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Includes Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Haitian Creole, French, Irish and Greek. Free for library cardholders. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **SPANISH** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua) meets Tuesday nights, at 7 p.m. Each meeting will have a theme, giving people with intermediate skills an opportunity to practice the language. Call Carol at 589-4610.

• **SPANISH CONVERSATION** Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. Beginning and intermediate conversation classes offered. The cost of the course is \$90 plus a book fee. Call 598-8303 or visit www.adultlearningcenter.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bake/yard sales/fundraisers/auctions

• **CHRISTMAS TREE SALE** to support Manchester East Little League, at Brian West Field, 313 Tarrytown Road, Manchester, featuring 6' to 9' sizes, plus 12" holiday wreaths, homemade baked goods, and little league sweatshirts, on Fri., Dec. 2, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Saturday customers can get photos and autographs with Santa and NH Fisher Cats mascot Fungo. For info, e-mail fundraising@manchesterll.org.

• **FOGG FAMILY FUNDRAISER** raises money for Matthew Fogg, a 22-year-old newlywed and father who is resting from heart surgery. His family is deep in debt and looking to raise money to have a good Christmas and get some needed

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Doula opens Welcoming Ways in Greenfield

Tara Potter and others offer help with labor

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Before hospitals, doctors, Caesarian sections and epidurals, birth was not seen as a medical event. Rather, it was viewed as a natural process that women experienced. Today, many women are referring back to the days of old and opting for more natural pregnancies.

For such women, Tara Potter has been offering her “welcoming ways” for 12 years now.

“Doula” is a Greek word that means “woman who serves.” When home births were more common, Doulas were originally the friends and relatives of the mother who helped her through pregnancy and delivery. The midwife or doctor delivered the baby, while the doula provided comfort, advice, and support.

Potter said that one of her jobs as a doula is to help the mother make informed decisions. She can be seen as a translator from doctor to mother, and someone mothers can go to for basic advice.

The exercises, positions, and practices a doula offers during labor help offset the pain and can act as an alternative to an epidural during labor and delivery; however, her primary job is to simply be someone to lean on when things get tough.

“Sometimes women need me to ask basic questions about what to expect. Sometimes

they ask me to go to the store and get groceries when they are unable to or don’t have time. Sometimes they need my help in offsetting the pain during their labor,” Potter said. “But sometimes, women just need a hand to hold,” Potter said.

People choose to utilize a doula for a variety of reasons. Some look to doulas when there are special circumstances — for instance, Potter recently worked with a woman who had gestational diabetes. Some are concerned and anxious about what to expect in their pregnancies.

One of the primary reasons that women utilize doulas is that they want to experience a natural childbirth. That’s why Hannah Wildes of Bennington called Tara when she found out she was due to have a baby in March.

“I knew that I wanted to have my baby naturally, and I knew that doulas are really great in offering alternatives for pain management,” Wildes said. “It’s been extremely comforting having Tara, and she’s been such a great help.” Wildes said that Potter typically contacts her twice a week for now. When the due date comes closer, she will play a much larger role.

Potter works within a 60-mile radius from her home in Greenfield. Having been working informally as doula for the past 12 years, she only just officially began her business,

Welcoming Ways, last August. She offers her services as a birth doula, or a “labor companion,” as an antepartum doula, who deals with special circumstances in pregnancies (sometimes high-risk), and as a postpartum doula, who helps mothers after the baby is born.

Every doula has different practices, Potter said, but she prefers to establish a relationship with the mother beforehand.

“You’re there for one of the most intense, and really, one of the most intimate experiences of a woman’s life,” Potter said.

Potter feels it is important for women to have options. It’s been a long transition for Potter to become a full-time doula, but it’s something she’s passionate about, in part because of her own experiences. She wants women to feel as she did when she had her first child.

“I really believe that childbirth should be an empowering experience. It is one of the most important experiences in a woman’s life, and she should know the options and choices in determining how she wants to have her baby,” Potter said.

And there are many choices that New Hampshire women have today. Potter’s business is one of a few programs in the area. Others include Nini Bambini, which is a local business in Bedford that provides doula services within its practice, www.ninibambini.com/doulaservices.aspx.



Tara Potter provides support for mothers before, during, and after the baby is born. Courtesy photo.

www.birthroots.org/2.html). The Birth Cottage, the Birth Place, and Concord Hospital are a few other resources for mothers who want more help or information during their pregnancy. Their services include prenatal and postpartum yoga classes, childbirth education, breastfeeding, newborn care, and other class offerings. Women should look into their options, because “it’s your experience,” Potter said.

For more on Potter, see www.welcomingways.com, call 785-7649 or e-mail her at welcomingways@yahoo.com.

items for baby Madelyn. Karaoke contest, silent auction, 50/50 raffle and all-you-can-eat buffet comes with a \$20 ticket. Event on Sun., Dec. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. at Yangtze, 509 High St., Somersworth. Contact twobeespr@gmail.com.

• **CHILDREN’S AUCTION** will raise money for local organizations through an online auction from Tues., Dec. 6 to Sat., Dec. 10. Items up for bid on www.childrensauction.com are donated by local businesses, and all proceeds will go to local caregiver organizations. Visit the website to bid or to find out more information on the organizations benefitting or how to donate items to the auction.

• **HOLIDAY PARTY** held by the Mortgage Bankers and Brokers Association of New Hampshire will support Liberty House in this annual event to be held on Wed., Dec. 7, from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Manchester Country Club, 180 South River Road, Bedford. Admission is \$30, and proceeds will go towards Liberty House, Inc., a non profit dedicated to offering transitional housing, medical and job assistance for homeless veterans in New Hampshire. Bring used or new winter jackets, sweatshirts and winter boots. Donations collected at gathering and delivered to Liberty House afterwards. Visit www.mbba-nh.org or call 225-6111.

• **SILENT AUCTION/CHARITY DINNER** to be held by the Greater Hudson Changer of Commerce at The White Birch Catering and Banquet Hall, 222 Central S., Hudson. Thus. Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. Raffle, dinner and silent auction proceeds will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Admission to the roast beef, ham and pasta primavera is \$25. Reservations and item donations can be made through Chamber office, 889-4731, 71 Lowell Road, Hudson. Visit

www.hudsonchamber.com for more information.

• **DEMOCRATS HOLIDAY BRUNCH** will be hosted by the Londonderry Democratic Committee on Sat. Dec. 10 from 1:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Coach Stop Restaurant, 176 Mammoth Rd. Londonderry. Food, silent auction and speakers including Governor and Congress candidates. Tickets cost \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. RSVP by Dec. 3 by calling David Howard at 603-818-8528 or emailing him at DaveR-Howard@hotmail.com.

• **SOUGEHAN VALLEY CHILI CHOWDER COOKOFF** will take place Sun., Jan. 29 from 1-6 p.m. At the Amherst Business Center on Route 101A, Amherst, N.H. Attendees can taste all and vote on favorites to win “People’s Choice.” Winners receive cash prizes. Entry fee is \$25 for commercial chefs or restaurants, \$15 for amateurs. Tickets for attendees cost \$10, \$5 for children, and they can be purchased at the door or online at www.souhegan.net. Call 673-4360.

Expos/festivals/fairs

(See spotlight on page 28 for craft fairs)

• **FESTIVAL OF TREES** in Dover will take place Fri., Dec. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Dover City Hall Auditorium (288 Central Ave, Dover), where 25 elaborately decorated Christmas trees will be on display and up for auction. Event will also raffle prizes, provide local choral performances, and feature a visit from Santa. Call 742-2218.

• **MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE CELEBRATION** at the Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., in Peterborough, N.H. on Friday Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. Event will feature Renaissance music and dance in honor of Christmas and winter season. Admission is free. Visit

www.mariposamuseum.org.

• **PSYCHIC FAIR** on Sat., Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 76 Route 101A in Amherst. Reservations with one of the many intuitive readers can be made by calling 562-7525 or by visiting nianhandyoga.com. Readings are \$25 for 15 minutes.

• **HOLIDAY PARADE/TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** in Merrimack on Sun., Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. Parade travels from Commons Shopping Plaza to Abbie Griffin Park.

Holiday

• **SANTA TRAIN RIDES** travel up along the Mount Washington cog Railway Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$33 for adults and \$28 for children. Visit www.thecog.com or call 278-5404.

• **MIDNIGHT MERRIMENT** in downtown Concord kicks off the holiday season with a variety of activities and shoppers of all ages on Fri., Dec. 2, from 5:30 p.m. to midnight. Enjoy live music, shopping, visits with Santa, and more. Free parking after 5 p.m. is available on North and South Main St., side streets, at the Durgin Block, the Fire House, and the Capital Commons garages.

• **HOLIDAY WINTER STROLL** takes place Fri., Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Selectman Bill Brennan and Santa Claus will kick off the stroll at the gazebo at 5:30 p.m. Brennan and Santa will proceed to Wilton Center to light the holiday tree. Downtown merchants will be offering holiday treats and beverages. The event also features the Wilton High School Band.

• **STARRY, STARRY WEEKEND** will take place Fri., Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. And Sun. Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and family event in Contoocook and Hopkinton, to

include village tree lighting, holiday shopping, Christmas tree sales, gift botique, arts and crafts, and more. More details on the various locations and events this weekend at www.starystarryweekend.blogspot.com.

• **DANCE CENTER BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Eat the most important meal of the day with Santa Claus on Sat., Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Applebees, 581 Second St., Manchester. Enjoy a 50/50 raffle and take photos with Santa. Admission is \$5.00 for pancakes, juice, or milk. Proceeds benefit N-Step Dance Center’s Competition Team Nationals trip. Contact N-Step Parent Council at nsteppe@gmail.com. Tickets also available at the door.

• **DECK THE HALLS** at the St. Joseph Hospital event on Sat., Dec. 3 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the St. Joseph Hospital Atrium, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Participants can take photos of the decorated atrium and with Santa, enjoy music by Steve Blunt, and get a chance to win a giant teddy bear. Each child in attendance will take home a book. Call 595-3168 or visit www.stjosephhospital.com.

• **RIVERWORKS SHOP LOCAL** event encourages community members to shop local and buy directly from local crafters and artists on Sat., Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Riverworks, 164 Main St., Newmarket.

• **JINGLE DOWNTOWN STROLL** Get a bit of everything merry on Saturday, Dec. 3. This gigantic event in Milford, N.H. will have a little bit of everything you like for an entire day of holiday fun. Free shuttle buses will transport you from fair to fair, shop to shop. Don’t forget to see the Tree Lighting at 6 p.m.! Visit www.milforddoinit.org, email director@milfordmainstreet.org or call 249-0676 for a complete schedule of events.

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE &**

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS DISPLAY at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford on Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids can spend time in the hands-on workshop area specifically set up to help them write letters to Santa, while looking around the Christmas-themed shop.

• **ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford on Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The decorated shop will include a Mrs. Clause North Pole Kitchen, a Santa letter-writing station, and a number of holiday decorations and holiday goodies to buy at the shop. Call 673-8499.

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** at Portsmouth Obama 2012 Campaign Office (125 Brewery Lane, Portsmouth) on Sat., Dec. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. Food, drink, and an opportunity for the President’s supporters to see the new office and get some holiday cheer.

• **HOLIDAY ORIGAMI WORKSHOP** will take place on Dec. 3 from 10-12 at the Nashua Library on 2 Court St., Nashua. Karen Beaver, who teaches craft classes at many venues and works in the library’s Music/Art/Media Department, will spread her skills at a two-hour origami workshop. The class is open to adults and teens 14 and up, and they can register at www.tinyurl.com/nplcraft. Call 603-589-4610.

• **CHRISTMAS AT CANTERBURY** Saturdays, Dec. 3 & 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Canterbury Shaker Village, www.shakers.org. The Village will be lit up and decorated for the season. Enjoy a candlelight stroll or take a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride through the Village. Stop in the decorated historic buildings to enjoy entertainment including live musical

performances by popular groups, a 19th-century magic show, characters in period costumes, a Gingerbread Spectacular with a treasure hunt, craft demonstrations and hands-on activities for the family. Admission is \$17 (\$8 for ages 6-18, free for children 5 and younger); \$42 family rate for 2 adults and 3 children.

• **FAMILY WREATH MAKING** will be held at Amoskeag Fishways on Fri. Dec. 2 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Use all-natural materials to make fragrant, long-lasting wreath and other decorations. Cost is \$15 per wreath. Advanced registration with payment required. Call 603-626-3474.

• **SPIRIT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CHRISTMAS PARADE** will occur Sat. Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. on Elm St. in Downtown Manchester. The parade, themed ‘Tis the Season...’, will feature floats, marching groups, performance groups, bands, etc. Call Samanta DePrima, 603-645-6285.

• **WASSAIL PARTY** to be held on Sun., Dec. 4 from 4-6 p.m. At the Bedford Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Entertainment provided by the Bel Airs, who were recently featured on N.H. Chronicle. Holiday-themed show will include food and drink. Admission is free.

• **WEARE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held Sun., Dec. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Weare Town Hall, 15 Flanders Memorial Rd., Weare. Sing and dance to the music of Big paws, enjoy crafts, refreshments, stories, and face paint. Author of Tavern Village also will be available to sign books. Bring non-perishable food items for Weare Food Pantry. Call 529-3896.

• **TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** will take place on Sun., Dec. 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on the Town Common, Stark Highway, Route 13. It will fea-

ture refreshments and caroling, and Santa will stop in. Bring a canned good for the local food pantry.

• **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND WINE TASTING** to be held at Just Us Chickens Gallery, 9 Walker Street, Kittery, Maine on Sun., Dec. 4, from 1-3 p.m. Features holiday brunch, wine, locally-made arts and crafts, books by local authors, used furnishings. Admission free.

• **SANTA PET PHOTOS** will be taken this holiday season at The Barking Dog, Ltd. facilities (200 Rockingham Road, Derry, 208 Londonderry Tpke, Hooksett) on Dec. 4 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. for \$5. Proceeds benefit Greater Derry Human Society, Inc. Call 434-1512 or visit <http://www.derryhumansociety.com>.

• **CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM** at the New Hampshire Farm Museum, 1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton, on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour decorated historic Jones Farmhouse with costumed role-players, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride, make a Christmas candle to take home, roast chestnuts, and meet the farm animals. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, \$7 for adult members, \$3 for child members. Call 652-7840 or visit www.farmmuseum.org.

• **TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL** begins at 6:30 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 9, at WWI Common in Amherst, N.H. Festivities last until Dec. 11 with live music, breakfasts, hay rides, visits from Santa, open houses, and spaghetti suppers. Email Ann Bergin at ACBergin@aol.com.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** brought by the Friends of the Chester Public Library on Sat., Dec. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Chester Municipal Center, 84 Chester St., Chester.. Admission is \$5 per person with max charge of \$20 per family. Take photos with Santa and enjoy pancake breakfast, rafts, games, holiday stories and raffles. Proceeds benefit Chester Public Library. Call 887-3404.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

• **Canterbury Shaker Village**
288 Shaker Road, Canterbury,
783-9511, shakers.org
• **McAuliffe-Shepard
Discovery Center**
2 Institute Dr., Concord, starhop.
com, 271-7831
• **Currier Museum of Art**
150 Ash St., Manchester,
669-6144, currier.org
• **Laconia Historical
& Museum Society**
in the Laconia Public Library at
695 Main St. in Laconia,
527-1278, laconiahistorical.org
• **Langer Place**
55 South Commercial St.,
Manchester, 626-4388,
langerplace.com
• **Lee Scouting Museum
& Library**
571 Holt Ave. in Manchester,
669-8919, scoutingmuseum.org
• **Manchester City Hall**
One City Hall Plaza, off Hanover
St. in Manchester, 624-6455
• **Millyard Museum/Manchester
Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531,
manchesterhistoric.org
• **New England Synthesizer
Museum**
6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587,
synthmuseum.com
• **New Hampshire Aviation
Museum**
South Perimeter Road,
Manchester, 669-4820, nhahs.org
• **New Hampshire Snowmobile**

In the spotlight



Laugh it off

Is stress hyping you up, or are the holiday blues bringing you down? Running around frantically this holiday season trying to please the in-laws? Try laughing about it. Certified Laughter Yoga teacher Marcia Wyman will present an introductory class on stress-reduction techniques using laughter yoga. Laughter yoga combines laughter, exercise and yogic breathing and it's a practice you can use anytime, anywhere. (Maybe even when things do go horribly wrong this season, like when you drop the turkey or the dog eats the pie.) This free event is open to the public on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord. Call 230-3682.

Association Museum

Beaver Brook State Park Museum Complex off Route 28, Allentown, 648-2304, nhsnowmobilemuseum.com

• **Museum of N.H. Natural History**

6 Eagle Square in Concord, 228-6688, nhhistory.org

• **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**

18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org

• **Seacoast African American Cultural Center**

135 Daniel St. in Portsmouth, 430-6027, saacc-nh.org

• **SEE Science Center**

200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org

• **Speare Museum**

5 Abbott St., Nashua, 883-0015, nashuahistoricalociety.org

• **U.S. Marconi Museum**

14 N. Amherst St. in Bedford, 472-8312, marconiusa.org

Exhibits

• **ROCHESTER OPEN HOUSE** will be held by the Rochester Historical Society on Thus., Dec. 8, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the museum, 58 Hanson St., Rochester. The theme is "Rochester throughout the 1900's." Enjoy displays, holiday decorations, and treats. Call 330-3099 or email rochesterhistorical@metrocast.net.

• **"ALONG THE SILK ROAD"** Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, through early January. The exhibit focuses on the Silk Road, the great trade route that stretched from China to Turkey and into Europe. The exhibition emphasizes "the Stans," formerly republics of the Soviet Union and now independent countries, as well as Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Programs will focus not only on the historical importance of the Silk Road and the great cultures that grew up along it but on the significance of this region today. See www.mariposamuseum.org.

• **"DAVID MCPHAIL: LOOKING BACK...AND BEYOND"** Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, through December. Visitors to Gallery 6 will get a glimpse into McPhail's creative process. Children and adults will enjoy meeting Henry Bear, Waddles the Raccoon, Emily Duck, Budgie & Boo and the characters from McPhail's newest book, *Abandoned Lighthouse*. Visitors can view the exhibit during regular business hours, and no admission fee is required to visit only the gallery.

• **OBJECTS THAT DEFINE NEW HAMPSHIRE: PART II** at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord, through July 7, 2012. For nearly two centu-

ries the NH Historical Society has collected and preserved thousands of objects, books, documents and photographs about the state's past, and the treasure trove of items in "Icons of History" reflects the breadth and depth of these collections. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free. The first part of the exhibit is on display at the NH Historical Society's museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord, through Dec. 31. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **"SEASONS OF CHANGE" SEE** Science Center, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 669-0400, through Jan. 8, 2012. This interactive exhibit provides visitors an opportunity to see how climate affects New England's seasonal traditions. Using graphics, multi-media displays, artifacts and interactive components, the exhibit addresses many areas of New England life including agriculture, forestry, fishing and recreation. Visitors of all ages are introduced to the challenges faced by farmers, fishermen and others. Visitors can engage in testing how ocean acidity levels affect sea-life, observing how CO2 concentrations affect invasive species and more. Visit www.seesciencecenter.org.

• **SUMMERING IN RYE: OVER A CENTURY BY THE SEA** Seacoast Science Center, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, through Dec. 31. The exhibit chronicles the golden age of Rye's Victorian resort era of the mid-1800s to the 1960s. The images in this exhibition showcase the accommodations along the shores of Rye and the activities vacationers enjoyed during their stay.

• **A TREE'S MANY BRANCHES: THE LEGACY OF LACONIA'S JEWETT FAMILY** Laconia Public Library, 695 Main St., Laconia, 524-4775, through December. This exhibit, presented by the Laconia Historical Society, accompanies the recent publication of *The Day Book of Jeremiah Smith Jewett*. This exhibit is a tribute to the family and will feature items from LHMS' large Jewett Collection. Go to www.LaconiaHistorical.org.

Ongoing

• **BOOTT DISCOVERY TRAIL** Pick up work aprons and time cards at the museum entrance and, through hands-on activities, explore how raw cotton was made into finished cloth at Lowell National Historical Park.

• **CONVENTION MEMORABILIA DISPLAY** in the Speare Museum of the Nashua Historical Society features nearly 250 political items drawn from the Republican National Conventions of 1988 in

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• **JOHN PAUL JONES HOUSE** in Portsmouth, NH, features artifacts from the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905 and from John Paul Jones, an American naval hero. Open 7 days a week 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$6. Call 603-436-8420.

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• **MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** holds open houses the 2nd weekend of each month, April through December, from 2 to 4 p.m. Upcoming Saturdays & Sundays: October 8 & 9; November 12 & 13; and December 10 & 11. The Historical Society is located in the Carey House at 6 Union Street. Admission is always free. For more information, go to www.milfordnhhistory.org.

• **NEW ENGLAND SYNTHESIZER MUSEUM** features vintage synthesizers at 6 Vernon St., Nashua, 881-8587, synthmuseum.com. Call for appointment. E-mail dwilsynth@aol.com.

• **WARNER HOUSE** Located in Portsmouth, the Warner House is the earliest extant brick urban mansion in New England. The museum hours are Wednesday through Monday from noon to 4 p.m. and the admissions price is \$5. Call 603-436-5909 or go to www.warnerhouse.org.

Tours

• **HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOURS** will be offered on Sat., Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sun., Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Laconia. Stroll through five festively decorated homes in the Lakes Region, in lakeside and mountain settings. Refreshments will be available and musical entertainment will add to the holiday atmosphere. Tickets \$10 at the door at the Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon St., Laconia. Tickets are also available in advance at the Belknap Mill and at Gilford and Laconia libraries. Proceeds go to scholarships and community projects. Call 524-2555 or visit www.opcheegardenclub.com.

• **ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY** 221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, budweisertours.com, offers free tours daily between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Free samples available to guests 21 and older.

• **CLYDESDALE CAMERA DAY** at Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, www.budweisertours.com) on the first Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a camera and pose for a photo with a world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale.

• **EDUCATIONAL FARM AT JOPPA HILL** (174 Joppa Hill Road, 472-4724, Bedford) is a non-profit organization operated exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of increasing public

In the spotlight



Snowmobile plans

Get your snow on with the Southern New Hampshire Snow Slickers (www.snow-slickers.org) snowmobile club at the annual Snowmobile New Hampshire Winter Expo on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Radisson hotel at 700 Elm St. in downtown Manchester. There will be great deals on clothing, accessories, gear, trailers, and new, demo and pre-owned sleds. The Expo will also feature resort stay packages and representatives from other snowmobile clubs. Admission is \$10 (free for ages 12 and younger), but visit www.snowmobile-nh.com for a discount coupon.

awareness of sustainable agriculture. Farm tours are given daily to children and adults. Classes in sustainable organic agriculture and horsemanship lessons are available.

• **PORTSMOUTH BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL** in Portsmouth, NH, is a self-guided walking tour through neighborhoods where Portsmouth's black residents lived, worked, prayed and celebrated. Call 603-431-2768 or go to pbhtrail.org.

• **SEGWAY TOURS** Segway of Manchester, 42 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-8150, offers a variety of tours on a Segway PT. Currently all standard tours are offered at two tickets for \$99. Or choose the \$99 Ghost Hunting Tour, the \$79 Cemetery Tour or the \$69 Ghost Tour. Some tours are offered daily at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. this fall. E-mail info@SegwayofManchester.com or call 218-8150.

• **TOURS OF THE MUSIC HALL** will be held on the first Wednesday of every month through June, 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Visit www.themusic-hall.org or call 436-2400.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways** 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• **Beaver Brook Association** 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org,

• **Charmingfare Farm** Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill** 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

• **Friends of Stark Park** North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

• **Londonderry Trailways** PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org

• **Manchester Historic Association** 129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

• **Massabesic Audubon Center** 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org

• **McLane Center** 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org

• **Peabody Mill** Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org

• **Seacoast Science Center** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

• **Society for the Protection**

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224-9945, sphnf.org

Animals/insects/plants

• **BACKYARD WINTER BIRDS AND BIRD FEEDING** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about birds that winter in New Hampshire. Costs \$8. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

• **BEAVER IN WINTER** will teach event attendees about what beavers do in the winter at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Sat., Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$8. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

Astronomy

• **OBSERVING THE NIGHT SKY** is geared towards homeschooled students and will take place at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Insutitue Dr., Concord, on Thus., Dec. 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Learn about prominent constellations, Galeleo's discoveries, and observe star clusters, galaxies, Neptune and Uranus. Admission is \$15 per student, \$10 for each additional student from the same family. Call 271-7827.

• **KEPLER: MORE THAN EXTRASOLAR PLANETS** is an update on discoveries from NASA's Kepler mission presented by John Blackwell, chair of the Phillips Exeter Science Dept., on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. The observatory will be open from 7 to 10 p.m. Following the program will be a free skywatch outside with the NH Astronomical Society including personal telescope advice and assistance. This Super Stellar Friday program is recommended for ages 8+; children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission \$9 (seniors/students \$8, children \$6). Please arrive at least one half hour before show time; no late seating or readmission to the theater is permitted.

Hiking, hikes & walks

• **WILD WINTER WALKS** and guided tours of the Gephart Exhibit Trail will be offered select dates in Jan. and Feb. by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness. Snowshoe tours will be lead by naturalist, who will discuss how native animals adapt for winter life in New Hampshire. Snowshoes, available at no extra cost. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

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In the spotlight



Learn how to carol

Sing in tune this holiday season! The St. Jude Parish adult choir will present its 11th Annual Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. Traditional and contemporary Advent music will be featured. Everyone is welcome to take part in this free event, which is meant provide opportunity to slow down a bit during the busy season. The parish is located at 435 Mammoth Road in Londonderry.

In the spotlight



Gift auction to benefit kids

The Children's Auction is a fun and easy way to get holiday gifts while raising money for local charities. Participants can bid on items donated by local businesses from Tuesday, Dec. 6, through Saturday, Dec. 10, online, and the money raised will go to caregiver organizations in New Hampshire. If you have an item to donate to the charity auction, it can be brought to WLNH Studios at 25 Country Club Road in Gilford; MetroCast at 9 Apple Road in Belmont; or any branch of Laconia Savings Bank, Meredith Village Savings Bank or Franklin Savings Bank. After Dec. 6, bring donations to Lake Opechee Inn & Conference Center. For full information, visit www.childrensauction.com.

SHOP is offered on the third week-end of every month at MyoFu An Dojo, 159 Savage Road, Milford, taught by a master tracker from Tom Brown School with 25 years of experience. Includes training in basic survival skills such as finding and making emergency shelter, making fire, purifying water and gathering food. Call 785-6440.

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- **Verizon Wireless Arena**
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Runs/running/walks

- **FREEZE YOUR BUNS** in the five-race series hosted by the Gate City Striders on Jan. 9, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 and March 6 at 9 a.m. Admission is \$5 per race 19 and over, \$4 per race 15-18 and \$3 per race for kids under 14. Pre-registration for the series is \$20 for those 19 and over, \$15 for those 15-18 and \$12 for those under 15. Meet at the Conway Arena Register at 8 Riverside St. in Nashua. To register or find out more information at www.gatecity.org. Contact Leann and Trevor Ward at runfyb@gatecity.org.

Spectator

- **MANCHESTER FREEDOM** women's tackle football team plays at West Memorial Field in Manchester. See www.manchesterfreedom.com. Tryout for next season on Sun., Dec. 4. See website for details.
- **MANCHESTER MONARCHS** (Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000 minor-league affiliate of the L.A. Kings. See www.monarchshockey.com.) Upcoming home games include Sat., Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. vs. the Providence Bruins; Sun., Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. vs. the Worcester Sharks.
- **MANCH-VEGAS ROLLER GIRLS** (www.manchvegasrollergirls.com) compete throughout the region; see schedule and video footage online. Home bouts are at the West Side Arena, on Electric Street, just below the Nazaire Biron (Kelley Falls) Bridge. Go online for information on recruitment for the 2012 season.
- **NH ROLLER DERBY** team competes at the JFK Coliseum,

303 Beech St. in Manchester. Tickets cost \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door; kids 10 and under get in free. See www.nhrollerderby.com. Next game is an away bout on Sat., Dec. 3. See website for information on 2012 season.

VOLUNTEER

Cultural organizations

- **CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS** is always seeking volunteers from the community to lend a helping hand. Call 225-1111.
- **CONCORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** to update and maintain website at www.concordhistoricalsociety.org. Contact John Hare at jhare@concordhistoricalsociety.org.
- **LITERACY VOLUNTEERS** at Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us). ProLiteracy – Learn to Read at Manchester City Library will train you to teach an adult to read on a one-to-one basis. Call 624-6550 ext. 330.
- **MAJESTIC THEATRE** needs ushers for every performance. Ushers usually arrive about two hours before show time. Duties and instruction are given upon arrival. 281 Cartier St., Manchester. Call 644-8155.
- **MILLYARD MUSEUM** ester Historic Association needs volunteers to help with museum programming, admissions, museum gift store, mailings, art projects and more. Go to manchesterhistoric.org or contact Pamela Bennett at pbennett@manchesterhistoric.org or 622-7531 ext. 301.
- **NEW ENGLAND QUILT MUSEUM** 18 Shattuck St., Lowell, Mass., is seeking two volunteers: (1) A retired human resources professional to serve as the Museum's volunteer coordinator, should live near Lowell and be available to recruit, interview and orient new volunteers; (2) A retired software engineer/database administrator to assist Museum staff with a variety of database projects in the library, gift shop and curatorial department. Some tasks can be performed from home; others require time at the Museum. In addition, the museum is always seeking volunteers to help with a wide range of activities. See the Museum website at www.nequiltmuseum.org/support-us/volunteer.html.
- **NH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM** to serve as gallery guides at the museum, 6 Eagle Square in Concord. Weekday and weekend hours are available. Call 856-0611 or e-mail sskenyon@nhhistory.org.
- **SCULPTURE ART** the Joe B Parks Riverwalk Public Garden is seeking public art in the form of sculptures for the garden. Named after former state legislator, local volunteer, and rhododendron expert Joe B. Parks, the Riverwalk project began as an effort between Dover Main Street and the Dover Rotary Club three years ago and has involved more than 500 volunteers developing the 1,300-foot walkway public garden that begins at 400 Central Ave. in Dover. Parks donated numerous plants, designed the garden, and put in several hours of labor to help complete the finished project. He hoped to see the Riverwalk evolve into a sculpture garden. Parks passed away earlier this year at age 94. Fischer can be reached at 817-1843.

Cheap gaming is cheap

There's no excuse for buying these systems

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



This was going to be a column about drugstore electronics in general. The off-brand tablets and netbooks, the speaker systems for MP3 players, the last of the digital cameras from two

years ago. Things that may not be the latest and greatest but at least made a somewhat honest effort to be the value-priced alternative to premium brands.

But one group of electronics sank so far below the others that it must be called out independently. It's a series of cheapo plug-and-play game systems that might or might not be made by the same folks. The manufacturers certainly don't proudly advertise their names — not because they're ashamed, because shame is one of many things they do not possess.

The Wireless Air 60 is one of the newest and, I can only hope, worst of the bunch. I picked it up on sale for \$20 at CVS. It will look familiar to anyone who's laid eyes on the Kinect for Microsoft's Xbox 360 console. Above a small base is a wider black plastic rectangle, containing power and reset buttons, a red LED and a truly miniscule camera lens. Unlike the Kinect, there is no separate infrared sensor for ultra-precise motion sensing. There's also no connection to a more powerful console — the 60 pixelly games built into the tiny unit are all you get.

That might sound like a lot of games. Consider that they include Fly Swatter, Mole Mash and Makin' Burgers, though, and it's less impressive.

OK, so I wasn't expecting much. But some of the games looked like retro fun: a space shooter called Sonic Fighter, a stripped-down

Rock Band-looking thing called Drum Master, a Super Motocross racer and a bunch of Wii Sports rip-offs like Bowling, Tennis, Baseball and Golf.

Oh, if ONLY they were rip-offs.

See, you don't make natural motions to roll your bowling ball or swing your bat. You hover your hands on controls overlaying the action on the screen. I had to wiggle my fingers to get the controls to activate (unless they accidentally activated from some motion I didn't remember making). On-screen instructions are sparse, and the included manual, having been translated at least four times, is of only limited use.

A few games do use direct hand movements. Air Hockey bounces a puck off your hand, or what it thinks might be your hand, in some direction usually not completely contrary to physics. In Break the Ice, you punch your hand in the general vicinity of disembodied hands shoving thin sheets of ice into your field of view.

If Wireless Air 60 coincidentally looks like the Kinect, the older Zone 60 system bears a striking resemblance to a Wii, with a slim main console and two remotes. There's also a Wireless Hunting Video Game System, which uses a single orange rifle as its controller.

The new Zone 3D system also features Wii-like remotes, the PlayStation 3's shape and two pairs of 3-D glasses — the red and blue kind, not the recent synchronized shutter types on expensive 3-D televisions. But hey, that means you can use just about any TV. Besides, only 20 of the 100 included games are 3-D anyway.

All these systems attach via old-fashioned red, white and yellow RCA cables. Which also means no HD gameplay for your giant screen. Which is probably for the best.

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- **NUTFIELD ALE & STEAKHOUSE** 55 John Devine Drive, 668-6110. Free for customers.
- **PANERA BREAD** 933 South Willow St, Manchester, 627-2443, and 7 Colby Ct., Bedford, 641-0500, panerabread.com. Free.
- **PATIO & PAVILION RESTAURANTS** Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222. Free.
- **PENUCHE'S GRILL** 96 Hanover St., 626-9830.
- **POCHITO'S** 33 S. Commercial St., 232-3054. Free.
- **REPUBLIC** 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723
- **SHORTY'S** Northside Plaza, 1050 Bicentennial Drive, Manchester, 625-1730, www.shortysmex.com. Free.



In the spirit of COMMUNITY—which Jerome Duval & Associates Real Estate is so proud to be part of—we are pleased to introduce our "Points of Community Pride" recognition program.

Each month, we will highlight a person, property or business worthy of notice. The recipient will be announced in this newspaper, be featured in a window display at our Hanover Street office in Manchester, and receive a special gift from us.

Send us your entry!

If you know a person who has contributed to your community, or a property with features that enhance a neighborhood, or a business that provides quality or unique service to its customers, tell us who or what they are.

Email entry to: jerome@jeromeduvalrealestate.com

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073547

Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Take a trip to the Mediterranean:** Republic Café, 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com, will offer unique dishes from Mediterranean countries one week each month, through 2012. Turkish specials, including locally purchased monkish, chicken raised in Peterborough and organic carrots grown in Vermont, and a Turkish-influenced prix fixe menu will be served daily from Monday, Dec. 5, through Sunday, Dec. 11. Egyptian food will be featured as a special in January.

• **Tips for toys:** The staff of T-Bones Great American Eatery in Hudson (77 Lowell Road, 882-6677, t-bones.com) will pool 100 percent of their tips earned on Monday, Dec. 5, and use the money to purchase items for the Salvation Army's holiday distribution program. The staff donated \$6,345 to the cause last year and Tom Boucher, owner and CEO of Great NH Restaurants, donated an additional \$5,000. Tips for Toys was started by employees of the Hudson eatery 15 years ago.

• **Foodie authors on the seacoast:** Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, will host Judy Rosenberg, author of *The Rosie's Bakery All-Butter, Cream-Filled, Sugar-Packed Baking Book*, for a book signing on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. Mary Ann Esposito, host of *Ciao Italia*, will be at the bookstore on Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 2 p.m., to sign copies of her new cookbook, *Ciao Italia Family Classics: More Than 200 Treasured Recipes from Three Generations of Italian Cooks*. Both events are free and open to the public. Call 778-9731 or visit www.waterstreetbooks.com.

• **Catch a flight:** Zampa, 8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com, will host "Bubbles, Tiny Bubbles," its champagne and sparkling wine flight night, during dinner on Thursday, Dec. 15.

• **Maine cooking and charity in the Granite State:** Cotton, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com, will host chef and author Kathy Gunst on Friday, Dec. 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. Dishes from Gunst's latest book, *Notes from a Maine Kitchen: Seasonally Inspired Recipes*, will be featured during the event, and all proceeds of cookbook sales (Gunst will be on hand to sign copies) will be donated to the Kids Café. Cotton owner Jeffrey Paige will also donate 20 percent of gift certificate sales this holiday season to the New Hampshire Food Bank.

• **Milly's helps New Horizons:** Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com, will host a party for New Horizons on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The event will feature performances by local musicians, a silent auction and light appetizers. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and at helpnewhorizons.org. Donations of clothing (especially warm socks, boots and shoes) and canned food will be accepted at the Tavern through Dec. 25 and given to New Horizons on Christmas morning, when the Tavern will host a breakfast for clients of the organization.

• **It's a wrap:** The Barley House, 132 N.

Continued on page 72

Expressions of taste

Currier tour features fine flavors of art

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

"I don't want to give it all away," docent Sandra Townsend said of her plans for her next focus tour at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. "I just want people to go and be open to the experience of exploring art through a different sense."

Townsend put together and will lead the "Eat, Drink and Be Merry: Food and Spirits in Art" focus tour at the Currier on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will be her second year running the tour, which is open to everyone and is included in the museum admission price.

"All we can do is whet the appetite for the tour and hope that if people are not out shopping on that Sunday morning, they would want to go to the Currier to have this intimate view of how people represent food and drink in art — how do you get something that is so three-dimensional and multi-dimensional into a flat image and how does it reconnect with the viewer?" Townsend said.

The tour, she said, is more than just walking around the museum and looking at pictures of food. It's about the senses — sight, smell, sound, touch — and how food has been represented throughout history.

The group will stop in the European Gallery to view a few still-lives that will fuel a discussion of the economics of food — for instance, "If the food is displayed on a platter then we were trading with the East at that point," Townsend said.

How people in the image are responding to food and drink will also be a focal point of the tour; a painting of a card game set in a Dutch drinking house and the depiction of an extravagant banquet set for Cleopatra and Marc Antony are both pieces of art that have more to them than meets the eye, Townsend said.

Taste of Turkey in Hudson

Mavi Bistro brings Turkish cuisine closer to home

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Owning a restaurant has always been a dream of Ozcan Cece's, but he wanted to wait for the right moment and find the right place to make it happen. He spent a year looking for a spot where he could serve the cuisine of his country, finally deciding on a former breakfast restaurant at the front of the Time Square plaza on Central Street in Hudson.

A dozen blue balloons still hover low over bare bushes in front of Mavi Bistro, Cece's new Turkish Mediterranean eatery, which celebrated its opening on Nov. 15. Mavi, which means "blue" in Turkish, is Cece's first restaurant experience as an owner but he has been in the hospitality business for more than 20 years, holding positions as a server, bartender and manager.



"Still Life of Fruit on a Kraak Porcelain Dish" by Balthasar van der Ast. Courtesy photo.

"We will look at things that have food and drink in them but also at what's behind the food and drink," she said.

The works of local contemporary artist James Aponovich will be viewed. Townsend noted he has the ability to "make all of the foods look real, almost like pseudo photorealism."

The tour will also pass through the museum's glass collection so visitors will be able to see how food was served on platters, and drinks in glasses and punchbowls.

"The wonderful design of glass is a whole other subject," Townsend said. Another highlight of the tour will likely be artwork featuring bootleggers in the Prohibition era.

"I'm not sure how many [pieces of art] we will see," Townsend said. "What I have learned is when you visit a museum, you want to look very closely at a few works of art. You don't want to just go running through the museum — it should be fewer

works, closely reviewed."

Townsend, a former teacher, said she is most looking forward to interacting with museum goers during the tour.

"The whole idea behind being a teacher is engaging people in exploring a topic," she said. "Now I engage people in a work of art — it might sculpture, glassware or ceramics."

"And of course," she said, "I look forward to getting some new ideas from people that will go on the tour and be looking at the same work of art but their interpretation might not be the same."

Eat, Drink and Be Merry

When: Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester

Tickets: free with museum admission

More info: currier.org

in both Turkish and English.

"It's simple food, comfort food that looks nice on the plate," Cece said.

Brunch dishes include Rockford Peynirli Biftek Omlet (a steak and blue cheese omelet) and Pastirmali Suda Yumurta (Turkish eggs Benedict, made with a lean prosciutto cured in Turkish spices). Tavada Somon (seared salmon with crispy skin, potato puree, spinach and dill beurre blanc), Buyuk Deniz Taragi (seared scallops, crispy bulgur, roasted mushrooms and a duo of pepper puree) and the chicken and beef kebabs are popular lunch and dinner options. The meat used for the kebabs is marinated in yogurt overnight.

When Cece was a child, his family would cook their kebab on a very long skewer over a tandir, a fire pit dug into mud.

"The juice dripping on the ashes was a mouthwatering sound," Cece said.

Customers are given Turkish Delight, a

FOOD

sweet, square gummy candy coated with sugar, at the end of each meal. Turkish coffee, which Cece compared to an espresso, and tea are also served at the restaurant. Cece said he will gladly give a complimentary sample to customers who are unfamiliar with Turkish tea.

"We drink tea 24/7 in Turkey, even before bed," Cece said of the Turkish tea, a mild black tea he likened to Darjeeling. To prepare the traditional hot beverage, a metal kettle is filled with only tea leaves, no water, and placed atop an electric water boiler. The boiling water below the kettle moistens the tea leaves, which are topped off with the hot water when served to guests. Cece pours his tea into small glasses emblazoned with the "evil eye," a symbol that the Turkish believes protects them from evil. A blue evil eye also hangs on a wall in the bistro's dining room.

"In Turkey every house has one," Cece said.

The bistro seats 40 guests, including four seats at its small blue bar, which was built by a friend of Cece's; the frame of the bar was built by his neighbor and many of the fabrics used at the restaurant were a gift from Cece's brother in Turkey. The kitchen is tucked behind a sheer white curtain near the bar, and a wooden window next to it makes it easy for the kitchen staff to pass plates to servers and the bartender.

"I put so much work into [renovating the restaurant] ... when people see it now they are kind of surprised," Cece said.

Cece uses his sister's recipe for the menu's Kirmizi Mercimek Corbasi (traditional red lentil soup with mint oil) and his brother's recipe for the Istridye Tave



Turkish tea at Mavi Bistro in Hudson. Angel Roy photo.

(Turkish-style fried clams).

"They got emotional when I told them," Cece said. "None of my family members have been [to the United States]. Hopefully if my business is successful I will be able to afford to bring them here."

Mavi Bistro

203 Central St., Hudson, 595-9955, mavi-bistro.com

Hours: Lunch are served Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner Tuesday through Thursday, 5 to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 5 to 10:30 p.m.

Cupcakes land in Bedford

Flavors range from expected to unique

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Andy Thibodeau took on more than just the role of business owner when she opened a cupcake shop in Bedford.

"I'm the new cool mom," the mother of three said with a big smile. "I'm never home but I look on the positive side — I'm the cupcake mom."

Thibodeau opened Cupcakes 101 at 132 Bedford Center Road (naming the business was a "no-brainer," Thibodeau said, as the shop is actually on Route 101) with her sister-in-law Kristen Morgan at the end of October.

"Every town needs a cupcake shop and we wanted to be the first in Bedford," Thibodeau said, adding that she had to close for what was planned to be the first week of business as the October snowstorm knocked out power to the shop. Now there is very little that is dark about the 3,000-square-foot shop. The back wall is painted neon green. A section of the store dedicated to candy boasts brightly colored oversized spiral lollipops and clear plastic bins filled with more than 15 varieties of sweets offered by the pound. And course, there are the cupcakes.

"We wanted to make it a sweet shop,



Butterscotch Caramel cupcakes at Cupcakes 101 in Bedford. Angel Roy photo.

like a kid's heaven," Thibodeau said. "One kid walked in and said, 'This is the best day ever.'"

"We wanted it to be fun in here," she said. Having underestimated the size of the retail space, formerly Prime Meats and

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FOOD

Bull Run, Thibodeau and Morgan have already made two trips to buy more tables to fill with candy.

The cupcakes, sold individually for \$2.75 at the shop, sit behind a glass panel and atop glass cubes filled with foil-wrapped Hershey kisses.

"We thought it would be more attractive than a deli case," Thibodeau said of the decadent display.

Chocolate, vanilla, red velvet and peanut butter cup cupcakes will be available daily at the shop, with a large variety of other flavors on a daily rotation (the weekly schedule is posted on the shop's Facebook page). Chocolate and vanilla cake pops (round mini cupcakes on sticks) are sold for \$1.50 each and can be pre-ordered in other flavors — "Those are obviously a craze we did not know about," Thibodeau said.

Thibodeau and Morgan's cupcake creations include the Shirley Temple (a ginger ale-infused cupcake with cherry buttercream), Bulldog (Redbull-infused white cupcake with cherry buttercream), Nerds (white cupcake baked with Nerds candies with Kool-Aid-infused buttercream, topped with Nerds), Butterscotch Caramel (vanilla butterscotch cupcake topped with caramel buttercream sprinkled with salt) and Lemon Green Tea (lemon green tea cupcake with lemon buttercream). Expect to see gingerbread, candy cane and both spiked and non-alcoholic eggnog cupcakes at Cupcakes 101 during the holiday season.

The pair has also developed some boozy treats, which Thibodeau said are still suitable for the under-21 crowd. "They're under the legal limit and most of it gets cooked out," she said. Among

the cocktail-inspired cupcakes sold at the shop are the Luck of the Irish (Guinness-infused chocolate cupcake with a Jameson whiskey chocolate ganache center and Bailey's-infused buttercream), Margarita (margarita-infused cupcake with lime buttercream, topped with crushed pretzels) and Shipyard Pumpkinhead Spice (vanilla cupcake with pumpkin spice infused with Shipyard Pumpkinhead Ale, pumpkin spice buttercream frosting sprinkled with cinnamon sugar). "You should see our liquor cabinet back there," Thibodeau laughed. "It's great."

Cupcakes 101 is open weekdays until 7 p.m. and weekends until 3 p.m. Thibodeau said if she starts to run out of cupcakes before 5 p.m. during the week, she will bake more for the after-work crowd. The shop already has a regular customer who orders a half dozen cupcakes daily.

"It will be slow here for 15 minutes, then there will be a rush," Thibodeau said, adding that she will be in the kitchen and behind the counter of the shop every week. "When people tell me I'm doing a great job, it's worth the hours," she said.

Thibodeau said she is looking forward to being a part of the community atmosphere in Bedford.

"So this is the cupcake store," said a customer as she walked in on a recent afternoon. "Welcome to town."

Cupcakes 101

132 Bedford Center Road, Route 101, Bedford, 488-5962, cupcakes101.net
Hours: Monday through Friday, noon-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Food Listings Winter markets

- **CANTERBURY** in Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., ccfma.net.
- **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road in Concord, some Saturdays starting with Sat., Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.colegardens.com.
- **DERRY** at the Derry Recreation/Vets Hall, 31 W Broadway, Derry, the first and third Sundays November through March from noon to 4 p.m. See www.derry-nh.org.
- **EPHING** 16 Main St. in Epping, the first Friday of each month from November through April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 642-8747.
- **HOOKSETT** at White Birch Brewing, 1339 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.
- **MILFORD** at Milford Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Union Square in Milford, on some Saturdays per month through May from 9 a.m. to noon: Dec. 3; Jan. 7, Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 3; March 17; April 14, April 21; May 5, and May 9. See www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.
- **NEWMARKET** at Carpenter's Olde English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St. in Newmarket, the third Saturday of the month from October to April.
- **NORTHWOOD** at the Masonic Lodge at the intersection of Routes 4, 202/9 and 43, on Saturdays in November from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See northwoodfarmersmarket.blogspot.com.

- **NOTTINGHAM** at the Nottingham Municipal Complex, 139 Stage Road, on Sun., Nov. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. Find them on Facebook.
- **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River School, 33 Old Manchester Road, on Sundays, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 19 and March 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit raymondnh.gov.
- **SALEM** at United Methodist Church on Pleasant Street on Sundays Dec. 4, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 5 and March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit salemfarmersmarket.com
- **SEACOAST EAT LOCAL** starts on Nov. 20 and alternates between Wentworth Greenhouses and Rollinsford and Exeter high schools. Visit seacoasteatlocal.org/winterfarmersmarkets/ for a full schedule.
- **WE ARE ONE FARMERS MARKET** at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 118 Center Road in Weare, Fridays through March 30, 3 to 6:30 p.m. See www.weare1farmersmarket.org.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

- **HOLIDAY FOOD GIFTS** Stop by the Downtown Manchester Holiday Market at Brady Sullivan Plaza, (1000 Elm St., Manchester) to do some holiday shopping and pick up jams and jellies from Laurel Hill, artisan crackers from Craquelins, dry soup and spread mixes from

Life's Little Pleasures and baked goods from The Bakeshop on Kelley Street. Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance. The market will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

- **GINGERBREAD COMPETITION** — HUDSON Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd., Hudson, will accept entries for its Gingerbread House Contest on Thurs., Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fri., Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Houses must be decorated only with edible materials and cannot be more than 24"x 24". A prize ceremony will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **COOKIE SHOP** — MILFORD This year's Christmas Fair at The Church of Our Saviour, 10 Amherst St., Milford, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, will feature a cookie shop. Fair goers will be able to purchase homemade holiday cookies by the pound at the shop. A country store will be set up at the fair and will feature chocolates, Cabot cheeses and homemade breads and preserves and the Church of Our Saviour Cookbook will be available for purchase. Crafts will also be sold at the event, at which children will be invited to decorate their own gingerbread cookies and houses.

- **HOLIDAY BITES** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will hold its 12 Bites of Christmas event on Thurs., Dec. 8,

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FOOD

Sauce is the key

Valicenti Organico uses a lot of tomatoes

By Angel Roy
 aroy@hippopress.com

Dave Valicenti arrived in the Granite State with a plan to open a restaurant of his own, but the economy and a really solid tomato sauce recipe led him to a slightly different career.

Valicenti put his restaurant plans on the back burner and took a chef position at Michael Timothy's in Nashua, where he met pastry chef Michelle Splaine, who was also working at Surf.

Valicenti began making tomato gravy in 2008 (also known as red sauce) with the bumper crop of tomatoes grown on his property. He sold the sauce at a fair and it was popular. He and Splaine then invested in glass jars and began making more batches of the gravy but soon realized he would not be able to sell his product at farmers markets until he had a commercial kitchen and the proper licensing; he had always thought he would use the money he earned at the markets to build a kitchen.

When he was able to scrape together the necessary funds, he transformed an old apple barn on his family's property in Hollis into a production facility complete with a commercial kitchen. He purchased a couple of pasta-making machines at an auction and Valicenti Organico was born.

"It took off like crazy," Valicenti said of his pasta line.

Valicenti and Splaine sold their sauce and pastas at three farmers markets a week in 2009. This year they participated in nine markets, weekly, in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire (you can find them at the Concord and Seacoast Eat Local winter farmers markets).

While farmers markets are the core of their business, the pair also sell their products wholesale and in bulk for restaurants, including PastAmore in Amherst.

"We are looking at growing that part of the business," Valicenti said, adding that he would also one day like to offer mail ordering options and eventually open a retail shop where Splaine's baking talent can shine.

"If we just put our heads down and work as hard as we can, we can reach a better point," Valicenti said. "That's what keeps me going, anyway."

Valicenti and Splaine produce two sauces, tomato gravy (made with tomato and basil) and arugula pistachio pesto. The arugula used in the pesto is grown in a very old, yet vibrant, patch where Valicenti's parents planted an arugula sprout in the mid-1970s. Two acres of tomatoes are grown on the property for the gravy. Most ingredients used in Valicenti Organico products are grown on the premises or locally sourced.

"We use about 1,000 pounds of tomatoes for a batch and do that about 40 to 50 times a season," Valicenti said, adding that the duo record their tomato usage in a log book. They hope to upgrade to a larger kettle to increase production.

The ripeness of the tomatoes and the



Dave Valicenti demonstrates how to use the ravioli press. Angel Roy photo.

simplicity of the recipe have been keys to the gravy's success, Valicenti said. The tomato gravy is canned in 32-ounce jars and is therefore shelf stable. Once open, the sauce will stay good for up to three weeks if refrigerated. It can be frozen for extended use.

The sauce recipe is a blend of the way Valicenti learned to make it growing up and what he has learned along the way.

"He is very particular," Splaine said. "The garlic has to be cooked for 30 minutes before it enters the tomato kettle." An 80-gallon stainless steel tomato kettle sits in the barn's kitchen and can fill 320 jars of gravy. The kettle is run daily from August through October, as tomato season lasts until a few weeks after the first frost.

"The garlic is the first step, so if it's not right it screws the whole thing up," Valicenti said.

Valicenti Organico makes and sells nearly 30 varieties of ravioli, including cheese, duck confit with ginger and shiitake, braised chestnut, roasted pumpkin and brie, caramelized butternut squash, brown butter roasted sweet potato, roasted beet with pecorino tuscano, herbed chevre with local honey, potato and leek and truffled wild mushroom.

Specialty pastas are made in such flavors as lemon basil, tomato caper, orange and toasted fennel, carrot and dill and sriracha. The specialty pastas have a shelf life of 15 days. All ravioli and pastas can be made gluten-free. For those who want to stay gluten-free, "We suggest people do special order [gluten-free] ravioli, but we do try to have at least cheese for sale [at farmers markets] and four varieties of gluten-free pasta," Splaine said.

Valicenti said his pasta offerings are a good halfway point to going out to a fine dining restaurant: "You can have fine dining at home," he said.

gimmiespaghetti.com

Find Valicenti Organico ravioli, pasta and sauces at Bare Bonz Butcher Shop in Amherst, Brookdale Farm in Hollis, Lull Farm in Hollis and Milford, The Good Loaf in Milford, Philbrick's Fresh Market in Portsmouth and Bella Vino in Windham. The sauce is also available at Earthward Natural Foods in Amherst, Harvest Market in Hollis, A Market in Manchester and Maggie's Natural Market and Roy's Market in Peterborough.

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3. For ham, choose a 98% fat-free ham and rinse before cooking to remove surface salt.
4. Practice portion control by limiting the amount of turkey or ham on your plate to 3–5 ounces. A 3-ounce portion size is equivalent to a deck of cards.



Additional Hints!

Gravy:

- Chill gravy, skim off the fat, and reheat before serving.
- To thicken, instead of flour, use cornstarch or try mashed potatoes with natural starches.

Stuffing:

- Use whole-grain or whole-wheat bread instead of white bread to bump up fiber content. Use less bread and replace with more chopped vegetables, such as onions, celery, carrots, spinach, or bell peppers.
- If recipe calls for chicken or vegetable stock, use low-fat or low-sodium versions.

Side Dishes:

- Substitute reduced-fat or nonfat sour cream, cream cheese, or creamed soups in place of regular, high-fat versions.
- Replace high-calorie casserole dishes with plain green salads, brown rice, or steamed vegetables.

Dessert:

- Experiment with low-fat recipes of pies and cakes. Try using evaporated skim milk instead of whole milk or substitute two egg whites for a regular egg.
- Use half of the amount of sugar the recipe calls for or try a sugar substitute, such as Truvia, in place of granulated sugar.
- Use less fat by substituting applesauce or pureed prunes in place of oils or butter.
- Serve a bowl of fresh-cut fruit topped with Dannon® vanilla yogurt mixed with cinnamon for an extra tasty & healthful dessert!

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• Healthy Living Store Tour: Saturday, Dec. 3, noon to 1 p.m. No registration required.

CONCORD

73 Fort Eddy Road
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Helpful Tips on How to Manage Your Weight This Holiday Season: Thursday, Dec. 1, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 228-2060 for info on next tour and to register.

MANCHESTER/HOOKSETT

79 Bicentennial Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Monday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 644-2106 for info on next tour and to register.

LONDONDERRY

6 Hampton Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Give the Gift of Health this Holiday Season: Friday, Dec. 14, 3 to 6 p.m. No registration required.
• Healthy Living Store Tours: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 3 to 6 p.m. or Wednesday, Dec. 14 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 421-0921 to register.

MANCHESTER/EAST SIDE

859 Hanover St.
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Lighten Up—Holiday Recipes for Weight Loss: Friday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to noon. Call 624-4442 to register.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 624-4442 for info on next tour and to register.

MANCHESTER/SOUTH

201 John Devine Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Free classes held regularly! Call 626-4567 for this week's schedule and to register if required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 626-4567 for info on next tour and to register.

NASHUA

175 Coliseum Avenue
• Make Your Own Nutritious Holiday Gifts: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 8 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 889-3700 for info on next tour and to register.

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FOOD

In the spotlight



Saveur The New Comfort Food, edited by James Oseland (2011, Chronicle Books)

Culinary adventure magazine Saveur presents a new collection of recipes, this one focused on the home-cooking, like-mom-used-to-make dishes called comfort food.

Think grilled cheese, for example, the book's first recipe. Except, of course, because this is Saveur, the recommended bread is sourdough and the recommended cheese is Comté. And you get an explanation of why Comté makes such good grilled cheese and a few suggestions of other cheeses you could use. And, because one man's grilled cheese is another man's guacamole, recipes for golden potato latkes, spicy beef empanadas, hummus with tahini and other dishes show up — along with stories, history, technique tips and lovely hunger-inducing photos — in the "Snacks, Starters and Salads" section.

As with many of the recipes in each month's Saveur, this dishes you find in this book may or may not be familiar to you (Chicken Fried Steak was a regular meal at my house when I was a kid, not so much Chicken Paprikash with Dumplings) but I wouldn't try any of them as a spontaneous weekday-night meal. These are dishes to be enjoyed first with the eyes, considered carefully and then given time to work themselves out some lazy weekend. Take the Italian-Style Meatballs With Tomato Ragu. Familiar-seeming, but four kinds of meat are involved and everything needs time to rest and drain. But check out the picture on the facing page and you'll want to set aside some time to get the dish, with its ricotta-enriched meatballs and rich sauce, exactly right.

Foods from around the world (including American country-style cuisine) get this treatment — Potatoes Gratin (the golden cheesy dish on the book's cover) shares a chapter on vegetables and sides with Chiles Rellenos, Kimchi Pancakes, Thai-Style Green Beans with Chile and Basil, Creamy Spiced Indian Lentils, Fennel Baked in Cream and Randy Evan's Southern Peas.

Saveur The New Comfort Food is, like the magazine, a cookbook of relatable discoveries, dishes that can add new flavors to your repertoire but well within the reach of a home cook. — *Amy Diaz*

from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a dozen different holiday appetizers including baked brie, marinated artichoke hearts, stuffed grape leaves, poached pears with blue cheese, prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, crab cakes, smoked salmon corn cakes, mini Beef Wellingtons and sliders. Samples of white chocolate and raspberry mousse martinis will also be doled out. Tickets cost \$15.

• **SMALL OFFICE PARTIES** For those who have a small office but still want to celebrate the holidays together in a big way, Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will hold its annual Big/Little holiday parties on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10. For \$49.95 per person, the parties will feature passed hors d'oeuvres, a sit-down dinner, dancing and a cash bar. Brookstone Grille, 14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9250, brookstone-park.com, will host its More the Merrier holiday celebration on Fri., Dec. 16, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Brookstone party will also cost \$49.95 per person and include a dinner buffet and entertainment. Reservations are required at both venues.

• **GINGERBREAD COMPETITION — MANCHESTER** The deadline for entries to be showcased in the Gingerbread Village at the Meetinghouse at Riverfront senior living facility in Manchester has been extended to Dec. 1. The entry fee is \$100, with proceeds to benefit the Salvation Army. The judging will be held the weekend of Dec. 15 and the winner of the competition will present the donation check to the Salvation Army and receive a plaque. Contact Lorna Ford at lorna.ford@netzero.net or 623-7000 to participate.

• **COOKIE SWAP** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will host its 3rd annual Old-Fashioned Cookie Swap on Mon., Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. Guests are asked to bring 24 homemade cookies to share. The swap is free and open to the public.

• **MAC & CHEESE BAKE-OFF** The second annual New Hampshire's Own Macaroni and Cheese Bake-Off, organized by Granite State Dairy Promotion, will be held at the Holiday Inn in Concord on Sat., Jan. 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. Contestants may enter one of four categories: Best of NH (made with 100 percent milk and cheese from NH dairy products), Best Traditional, Most Creative or Exotic and Best Restaurant (a category open only to eateries). The winner of each category will have a chance to be crowned the 2012 grand champion and have their recipe featured on the menu at Cotton (cottonfood.com) in Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and event goers can vote for the "People's Choice Award." The deadline to enter is Dec. 21 and entry forms can be found at nhdairyprmo.org.

Chef events/special meals

• **THE QUILL** restaurant at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester, will serve International Dinner on Thurs., Dec. 1; Spa Cuisine on Wed., Dec. 7, and a Culinary Arts Christmas Dinner on Thurs., Dec. 8. Dinners cost

between \$15 and \$35. Reservations can be made at finedine@snhu.com or by calling 629-4608.

• **LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA** will be held at the Riverside Christian Church, 27 Depot St., Merrimack, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 3 p.m. Appetizers, sandwiches, desserts and tea will be served. The event costs \$10 (\$5 for children under 12). Call 424-1711 or e-mail jacquibateson@comcast.net to reserve a spot.

• **MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEA** will be held at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, on Saturdays, Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Overlook Dining Room and will feature loose-leaf teas, finger foods and a performance by a holiday pianist. The cost is \$29.95. Reservations are required.

• **HOLIDAY WINE DINNER** at 900 Degrees, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com, on Wed., Dec. 7. Baked stuffed oysters, blue cheese and iceberg wedge salad, wood fired beef stew and herb-crusted lamb lollipops will be served for dinner, and pear, almond cranberry

dessert pizza for dessert. Wines served will include Bollini Pinot Grigio, Albert I Noya White Blend, Brotte "La Griveliere" Cotes du Rhone, Dinastia Vivanco "Crianza" and a dessert wine. The cost is \$39.95. Reservations are required.

• **LEBANESE DINNER** Washington Street Catering, 88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, www.washingtonstreetcatering.com, is serving a five-course Lebanese dinner every Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. The menu features tapas-style appetizers of hummus, pita chips, marinated almonds, garlicky cheese, olives, a choice of soup (typically chicken lemon or lentil Swiss chard) and tabouli or fatoosh. Four entrees — lamb, beef, chicken and vegetarian, all served with a starch and roasted vegetables — are offered each Friday. Guests are served espresso, baklava and fruit for dessert. The dinner costs \$23.95 per person and reservations are recommended. Guests may bring their own wine at no additional charge.

• **SUNDAY ROAST DINNERS** are offered in the dining room at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001,

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Weekly Dish

continued from page 44

Main St., Concord, 228-6363, will offer free holiday gift wrapping on Monday, Dec. 19, and Tuesday, Dec. 20, from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **New winter farmers market in the Lakes Region:** The Tilton Winter Farmers will kick off its first season on Saturday, Jan. 7, and run every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through March. Nearly 30 vendors, selling organic produce, meats, eggs, dairy, cheese, bread, pastries, popcorn, coffee, dog treats, composting worms and more, have signed on for the first year of the event, which will be held at 67 E. Main St. Visit tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com to see a full list of vendors or to download an application. Contact market organizer Joan O'Connor at joconnornh@yahoo.com for more information.

• **Delux dining:** 36 deLux, 36 Lowell St., Manchester, 644-1180, richardsbistro.com, will be serving family-style dinners on Sundays starting on Jan. 1, with a planned price of \$15 per person. Chef-owner Matt Provencher also hopes to bring back the "Have Knife, Will Travel" series, in which he and other are chefs trade off cooking special menus in each other's kitchens, in January. The newly opened restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., dinner Monday through Saturday, 5 p.m. to close, and Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m. Brunch is served Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **An award-winning chef:** Jeffrey Paige, chef-owner of Cotton (75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com), was named Restaurateur of the Year at the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association's Annual Stars of the Industry Awards ceremony on Nov. 9.

• **More K-Cups:** A reader sent us an e-mail to let us know that East Derry General Store, 50 E. Derry Road, Derry, 432-5302, sells individual K-Cups that you can mix and match.

• **Get your tickets early!** The ninth annual Winter Wine Week Spectacular will be held at the Radisson hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, on Thursday, Jan. 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. Nearly 2,000 wines will be available for sample at the event, which serves as the highlight of the state's annual Wine Week. Tickets cost \$65 for the Grand Tasting (\$125 for the Grand Tasting and Bellman's Cellar Select) at eastersealsnh.org or by calling 888-368-8880. The event serves as a fundraiser for Easter Seals of New Hampshire.

Know of any restaurants offering to-go dishes or sweets for the holidays? Let us know at food@hippopress.com. Follow @HungryHippoNH on Twitter.

Continued from page 50

bedfordvillageinn.com, from 5 to 8 p.m., through March 25. Sommelier Jon Carnevale will pair the ever-changing hearty three-course meals prepared by Executive Chef Benjamin Knack with a selection of red wines throughout the winter. The dinner costs \$35 (wine is not included). Reservations are recommended.

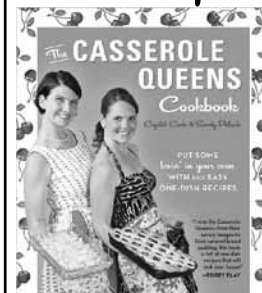
Church / charity suppers / bake sales

• **SANTA BREAKFAST** A Santa Breakfast will be held at Applebee's, 581 Second St., Manchester, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The breakfast will cost \$5 and feature all-you-can-eat pancakes, coffee, juice and milk. Santa will be able for photos during the meal. Proceeds benefit the N-Step Dance Center competition team. Contact nsteppe@gmail.com to order tickets.

• **FREE SANTA BRUNCH** will be provided on Sun., Dec. 4, at the YMCA of Downtown Manchester, 30 Mechanic St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to the public. Bring unwrapped gift for the Angel Tree, and make a gift donation to be entered in raffle. Call Cindy Lafond at 232-8616.

• **SANTA BREAKFAST** The Amherst Area Newcomers' Club will host Breakfast with Santa at Amherst Congregational Church, 11 Church St., Amherst, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m.

In the spotlight



The Casserole Queens Cookbook, by Crystal Cook & Sandy Pollock (2011, Clarkson Potter)

The word "casserole" does not light up the night with its sexiness, but find a great casserole recipe and it can add a glow to your week. These colder days are a perfect time to discover some new casseroles and *The Casserole Queens Cookbook* is a good place to start. The book offers its take on standards — eggplant parmesan, a baked ziti, tuna noodle casserole — but also branches out with dishes like coq au vin, pastitsio, osso bucco and bouillabaisse. The real gold mine in this book, however, may be chapters devoted to lighter dishes (a Mandarin Meatloaf, Black Bean Enchilada Casserole, Mediterranean Medley) and vegetable-based dishes (a mac & cheese with broccoli and sun-dried tomatoes, Sweet Potato Casserole, Cauliflower Gratin), which make the idea of a hot dish seem more in tune with modern approaches to eating (though, even when meat isn't around, cheese does make a fairly regular appearance — though who is going to argue with cheese?).

The book also serves as a reminder that casseroles need not be saved for immediate family only. Hosting a brunch at some point this holiday? A chapter devoted to breakfast casseroles can allow you to cook and entertain (with Caramel Cinnamon Sweet Rolls, The Pile High Frittata or Sunday's Best Crab and Cheese Quiche, who needs made-to-order eggs or waffles?).

Throughout, the book offers cooking tips and ways to save time and highlights recipes that are vegetarian-friendly and freezer-friendly. — *Amy Diaz*



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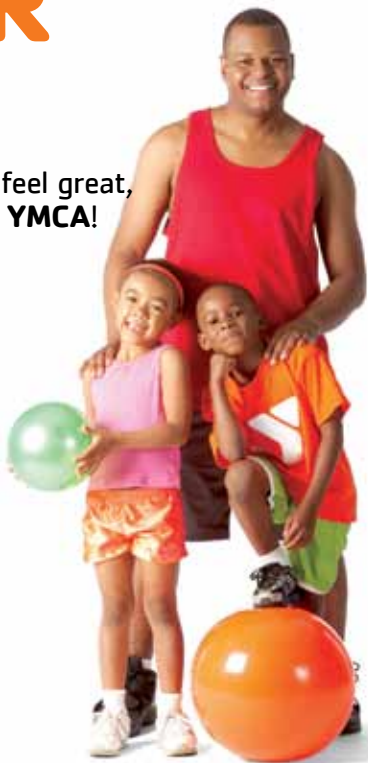
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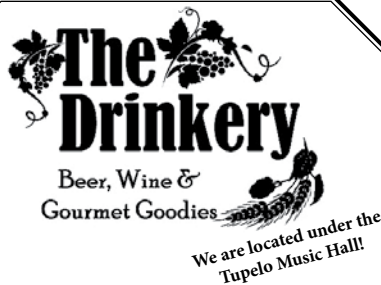
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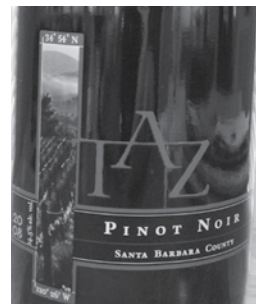
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DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

While Thanksgiving is (sadly) behind us, we still have a few more pinots to talk about — sort of.

Our first pinot is a **2008 Taz Pinot Noir**



Santa Barbara County bottle (\$12.99). For color, this one was a bit darker than most — we were not able to see through it. For nose, we got sour burnt cherry and some earthy barnyard smells. But the taste was something else entirely. It was bright with fruit and spice though still was on the dry side. Overall the wine was supple and had hints of tobacco, a real bargain for \$12.99.

Our second wine is a **2008 Chateau de la Chiaze Brouilly** (\$16.99 on sale until Jan. 2 for \$14.99). True, this Brouilly is not from the pinot noir grape, it's a gamay, but



the two grapes are similar and in some Brouillys pinot grapes are used. That said, the wine is light red, almost pink (maybe a pastel rose color) and for a nose

we got some tannins, earth and sour cherry. For flavors we got rose hip, cherry, tobacco and earth all combined in a very complex and enjoyable flavor. Though perhaps usually served with food, this wine works well on its own.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings

Breweries/Distilleries

• **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.

• **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com.

• **INCREDIBREW/ GRAPE TIME WINTER**, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, grape-timewinery.com (call for class schedule, tastings)

• **ITALIAN OASIS RESTAURANT & BREWERY** 106 Main St. in Littleton, 444-6695.

• **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING COMPANY** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com.

• **MILLY'S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com.

• **MOAT MOUNTAIN SMOKE HOUSE & BREWING COMPANY** 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-6381, moatmountain.com.

• **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth, www.portsmouthbrewery.com, 603-431-1115. Free tours Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 3 p.m.

• **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every

hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m.

• **SEBAGO BREWING COMPANY** 67 Portland Road, Kennebunk, Maine, 207-985-9855. Maine's premier restaurant and brewery.

• **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road in West Lebanon, 298-5566.

• **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. & Saturday at 11 a.m.

• **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckerman-brewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.

• **WHITE BIRCH BREWERY** 1339 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 244-8593, www.whitebirchbrewing.com. Open daily.

• **WOODSTOCK INN BREWERY** 135 Main St., North Woodstock, 745-3951, woodstockinn-brewery.com.

Cider

• **CROOKED TREE CIDER**, 35 Stickney Road, Whitefield, 837-9174, crookedtrecider.com

• **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com

• **SILVER MOUNTAIN CIDERS**, Lempster, 477-2026, silvermountainciders.com (open Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment)

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **BEER/WINE-MAKING** classes and demonstrations on making beer, wine and soda at IncrediBREW, 112 DW Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com. Shop features fest-nights that focus on making a particular kind of beer.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

• **BUTTER'S** Fine Food and Wine, 70 N. Main St., Concord, 225-5995, butterfinefood.com, will hold wine classes on Tues., Nov. 15 and Tues., Dec. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The classes cost \$40 each and will fea-

ture flight tastings of both red and white wines. Call to register.

• **WINENOT BOUTIQUE** 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, offers six-week courses on different subjects related to wine. Sign up for all six classes or for individual sessions.

• **WINE SOCIETY** (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us) offers classes for wine-lovers of all levels. New sessions start every few months. Call for upcoming schedule.

Special meals

• **HOLIDAY WINE DINNER** at 900 Degrees, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com, on Wed., Dec. 7. Baked stuffed oysters, blue cheese and iceberg wedge salad, wood fired beef stew and herb-crusted lamb lollipops will be served for dinner, and pear, almond cranberry dessert pizza for dessert. Wines served will include Bollini Pinot Grigio, Albert I Noya White Blend, Brotte "La Griveliere" Cotes du Rhone, Dinastia Vivanco "Crianza" and a dessert wine. The cost is \$39.95. Reservations are required.

Special wine tastings

• **SPARKLING WINE TASTING** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will host its fifth annual Sparkling Wine Tasting on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m., at which guests will be able to sample six sparkling wines from around the world paired with three appetizers.

• **WINERY OPEN HOUSE** Hermit Woods Winery, 56 Taylor Road, Sanbornton, 253-7968, hermitwoods.com, will hold its last open house of 2011 on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hermit Woods wines are also now available at The Black Forest Cafe in Amherst, Concord Cooperative Market in Concord, Holderness General Store in Holderness, Bert's Better Beers in Hooksett, Tavern 27 in Laconia, The Drinkery Shop in Londonderry, The Beer Store in Nashua and Smoke N Barley in Tilton.

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparsons@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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- *The Muppets*, **B+**



- *Arthur Christmas*, **B**



- *Hugo*, **B+**

POP CULTURE:

CDS

Planet Z, *Planet Z*
Blue Chair Enterprises, Aug. 9



Hot chick in a mini-skirt and do-me boots playing a Flying V violin? Sold! Of course, CD reviewers are easier to horn-up than feral rabbits, so let's just skip that part and look at what's really going on here. If it wasn't a hot chick in a mini-skirt, we might say something like "Hm, a dishwasher-safe hard-rock fetish remindful of Trans Siberian

Orchestra, lots of refried Yngwie Malmsteen ideology, gahh, is someone really serious about this?" Some of it definitely slogs, like "Appellation Sproing," in spite of its oldschool Savatage-like power metal underpinnings, that is to say, some earworms are adamantly unwelcome in life. "The Fire of the Planes" is the showpiece, bearing a super-fast Return to Forever vibe that really should have opened up the album on a "what the hell is this" note. But whatever, come on, it's a hot chick in a mini-skirt and do-me boots playing a Flying V violin! **B-** —Eric W. Saeger

Evidence, *Cats & Dogs*
Rhymesayer Records, Sept. 27



I can definitely sort-of recommend this with a hearty "Eh, this is, you know, OK." A real-life graffiti artist who's been around the block enough to be convincing, Evidence is pure L.A. hip-hop, boasting whatever level of cred comes with being part of the Dilated Peoples collective. I'd hate to be a local L.A. hack trying to

squeeze out superlatives about this thing, though; between Evidence's "patented" slow flow and a near-complete lack of beats that go anywhere, it can't be said that this is essential listening for undergrounders with two brain cells to rub together. There's sparkly ballroom bling here and there, added more as a culturally essential touchstone than anything else — yeah, yeah, we get it, Snoopy Junior. **C** —Eric W. Saeger



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- By the time you read this, it will be too late to see the *Nutcracker* ballet at the **Palace Theatre** in Manchester, but from Dec. 2 on, you can see the Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater's version of *A Christmas Carol*, which is so awesome that it was voted "Best Theatre Event of the Year" in Manchester once, by the Hippo readers. If you're venturing farther out, the **Boston Ballet**'s version of the *Nutcracker* has already started at the Opera House, and word is that this will be the last opportunity to see this version. Hopefully this doesn't mean the giant teddy bear will be gone, because that bear is seriously the Big Papi of area theater.

- Akron, Ohio, rockout-addict duo **Black Keys** release their seventh full-length LP next week. Titled "El Camino," it finds these two fellers being non-boring like usual, but sounding a little less like The Clash than previously, for example on opening tune "Lonely Boy," a cross between Jerry Lee Lewis and Sisters of Mercy, in other words like the Cramps but with a couple of extra dollars thrown in for "production values," so, ah... what, you haven't run off to buy this record yet, what're you waiting for, mush mush!

- So that oughtta do it, no one's really going to put out a new studio album except for those Black Keys dudes, I suppose. Wait, gahh, it can't be, a new album from **Chevelle** will be out on Tuesday! Let me live-review this nonsense right now while we're just talking about nothing, because who in their right mind puts out a tapioca-rawk album when everyone's saving up to buy Snow Patrol or Rolling Stones or whatever gift-buyers guess their loved ones actually listen to. OK, so this new album, *Hats Off to the Bull*, starts off with a song called "Face to the Floor," and the riff is sort of cool but it has the guy from Chevelle singing, which makes it sound like the dude from Creed, which means it sucks, what on Earth was I expecting anyway.

- Your holiday hit parade of expensive collections meant to assassinate your wallet just because you care about people who may or may not be related to you, you don't really know for sure: *Lioness: Hidden Treasures* by **Amy Winehouse**, which is actually sort of the last semi-official Amy Winehouse album until the next 10 semi-semi-official Amy Winehouse songs are discovered on tapes that were thrown away with good reason, and...

- WAIT, stop the presses, what, **Korn** has a new album coming out next week, *The Path of Totality*, and they're all up into dubstep, and the first tune "Narcissistic Cannibal" is pretty awesome, with guests Skrillex and Kill The Noise. Korn, nothing will kill those guys, I'm telling you. Someone tell Pendulum they're about to be destroyed! —Eric W. Saeger

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Rising up

See the art you've been missing

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

The artists who will appear at the Up from the Underground Art Experience on Sunday, Dec. 4, in Wilton, are talented in multiple fields.

This is the second event of its kind. Up from the Underground was founded by Rick Dumont of Sweaty Turtle Productions. Dumont created the event to promote his own films and to showcase talented artists who otherwise might not get the exposure.

"You can go to a museum and see Picasso and Monet," Dumont said. "The idea behind this was for the community to see those artists that they normally wouldn't. There is incredible talent just below the surface. And they're not just actors or musicians. But they're multi-faceted."

Dumont met many of these artists through his work as a filmmaker. Many of them either performed in or helped out with some of his past productions. Vanessa Leigh is a perfect example. Not only is she a painter but she has starred in numerous films, including *Joy and the Apocalypse*, *She-Feast* and Dumont's newest project, *The Bond*. Other artists on showcase will be photographers Jake Benjamin Taylor and Bobbi McClellan (who often take behind-the-scenes photos during film production), sculptor Carrie Buczynski and painters Ty Snitko and Karrie Lynne Whitfield (who also stars in *The Bond*). There will also be a musical performance by Clinton Degan, who has done the scores for some of Dumont's films, as well as a living statue performance by Kirst Callahan.

The evening will also include a presentation of *The Bond*. The film was shot in 2010 in a variety of New Hampshire locations, such as Wilton and Milford. Dumont described the film as neo-noir. It is shot in black and white and tells the story of a young couple who get caught up in ritualistic killings.

"It is a supernatural thriller," Dumont said. "There are psychic messages, cops investigating crimes and reporters hounding everyone for answers."

The thriller genre is a bit of a departure for Dumont, who wrote the script with his



On the set of *The Bond*. Courtesy photo.

wife. They also received help from horror director Jason Korolenko, who added some of the scarier elements to the script. Besides writing parts, Korolenko plays a murder victim in the film.

"That's how we repaid him, by killing him off," Dumont said.

The film explores the bonds that we share as humans and how situations can test those and push us beyond where we would normally go.

The event will be a fundraiser to benefit Bridges Domestic and Sexual Violence Support programs of Milford and the Animal Rescue League of NH.

"It should be a lot of fun and for a good cause as well," Dumont said.

Up From the Underground Art Experience

When: Sunday, Dec. 4, 2-7 p.m.

Where: Wilton Town Hall Theatre, 40 Main St., Wilton

Tickets: \$10 donation is suggested

More info: Call 731-8163 or e-mail sweatyturtle@gmail.com

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- **Concord Public Library**
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- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
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- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**

405 Pine St. (main branch)

and 76 N. Main St.

(West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us

• **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**

18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org

• **Nashua Public Library**

2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org

• **Rodgers Memorial Library**

194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org

• **Tucker Free Library**

31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org

• **Wadleigh Memorial Library**

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Author events

• **CHRIS MATTHEWS** will talk about his new book, *Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero*, on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org. In a special additional event, guests can buy a copy of the book and have it personalized by Matthews at the Vintage Christmas Pop-up Market at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., just before the main-stage event, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Books are \$24.75 when reserved in advance via a voucher from The Music Hall box office; signed books can be purchased on the evening for \$27.50. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.

• **NANCY DESROSIER** of Hollis will sign copies of her novel, *Stay a Little Longer*, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cassidy's Grille & Coffee House, 25 Route 101A, Amherst, 769-3131.

• **REBECCA MURZIN** of Center Barnstead will sign copies of her book, *Faith Takes Action*, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Parable Bible Bookstore, 85 Manchester St., Concord.

• **SYLVIA MERRILL BEAUPRE** of Weare will sign copies of her new book, *Tavern Village Tales*, on Sun., Dec. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Weare Historical Society's free family Christmas party at Weare Town Hall. Visit www.wearehistoricalsociety.org.

• **CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG** author of *The Polar Express*, *Zathura*, *Jumanji*, *Two Bad Ants* and several other acclaimed children's books, will share his stories at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester on Tues., Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$20; call 836-2537 or visit www.nhia.edu to order tickets online.

* **GLENN STOUT** will talk about, and sign copies of, his new book, *Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable 1st Year*, on Wed., Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.

• **HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.** will talk about his new book *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers in the Loft series. Tickets to the event cost \$64 and include a reserved seat, book, bar beverage, the author presenta-

BOOKS

In the spotlight



Make a book

Mary Carroll Moore (MA, MFA, author of *Qualities of Light*, former L.A. Times columnist) will lead a two-day New Hampshire Writers Project workshop on "How to Plan, Write, and Develop a Book" on Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southern New Hampshire University. The cost is \$268 (or register to become a Writers Project member and get the discounted rate of \$201). The workshop is for writers at all levels who have a book in progress or a book concept. Visit www.nhwritersproject.org for full details of the workshop, including a list of supplies you'll need to bring (scissors, glue stick, post-it notes etc.) and to register. Enrollment is limited. You can also reach the New Hampshire Writers Project at 314-7980. See www.marycarolmoore.com to learn all about the instructor, who is also a serious artist.

tion, Q&A and book-signing meet & greet. Tickets are available at the Music Hall box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org. Tickets go on sale on Friday, Dec. 2, at noon (for Music Hall members, the on-sale date is Fri., Nov. 18).

• **NH AUTHORS SERIES 2011-2012** at UNH in Durham takes place Sundays at 2 p.m. in the 5th-floor courtyard reading room of Dimond Library. Author interviews are followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Jan. 29: James Patrick Kelly, whose novel *Burn* won a 2007 Nebula Award and who has also won two Hugo awards. April 22: Rebecca Rule, regional storyteller and author of *Headin' for the Rhubarb! A New Hampshire Dictionary (well, kinda)*. Interviews are recorded for broadcast on NHPTV and for streaming online at www.nhptv.org/authors. The series is free and open to the public but seating is limited; to reserve a seat, visit www.library.unh.edu/friends or call 862-1540.

• **ERIK LARSON** will talk about his recent New York Times bestseller *In the Garden of Beasts* on Tues., May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org. Tickets go on sale on Friday, Dec. 2, at noon (for Music Hall members, the on-sale date was Fri., Nov. 18). Copies of the book can be purchased in advance at the Music Hall box office. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.

Lectures and discussions

• **PRIMARY CONCERNS: CRITICAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AT THE 2012 BALLOT BOX** series of discussions is presented by the World Affairs Council of NH, the NH Humanities Council and UNHM, free and open to the public. All events held at UNHM at 400 Commercial St., Manchester, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 6: "Debtor Nation: The Global Roots of the First Great Crisis of the 21st Century," featuring Dr. Jeffrey Frieden, Stanfield Professor of International Peace at Harvard University. Register to attend by visiting www.wacnh.org or by calling 314-7970 or e-mailing council@wacnh.org.
• **OVERVIEW OF CONTEMPORARY MEXICO** presented by Dan-

iel Hernandez Joseph, consul general of Mexico in Boston, on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Gregg Hall Auditorium at Nashua Community College, 505 Amherst St., Nashua, free and open to the public. For info, call 578-8900 ext. 1440 or e-mail sbashalany@ccsnh.edu.

• **DEGREES OF CHANGE** is a Science Café series of discussion about climate change taking place at 900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, 50 Dow St., Manchester. The public is encouraged to give input, ask questions and join the discussions. The event is free and open to the public and food will be available for purchase; 900 Degrees will be serving from their regular menu throughout the event. Register to attend by calling the SEE Science Center at 669-0400 or visiting www.see-sciencecenter.org. The final date in this Science Café series is scheduled for Dec. 19 and will feature Ken Colburn.

• **SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SEMINAR** for adults begins Jan. 12 at Congregation Betenu in Amherst. There will be 10 weekly meetings, on Thursdays, between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each session will stand alone, and the public is invited to come to the whole series or just individual sessions of interest. No pre-registration is needed, but RSVP is appreciated. The seminar will be led by Raphael Colb, an English teacher at Hebrew University. Contact Rahel at 554-1459 or betenu@nii.net for info or to RSVP.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and new members always welcome (please call in advance). Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Nashua Public Library for grades 8-12 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw.

• **ANIME & MANGA CLUB** is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing, and workshops. Visit www.rodgerslibrary.org or call 886-6030.

POP CULTURE:

- **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the Westside Plaza, 881-5570, www.bookcellaronline.com.
- **BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY** book discussion group focuses on current literature on Buddhist topics, meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy is invited to join: www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha.
- **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, www.smythpl.org.
- **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome.
- **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are 25% off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Dec. 5, *Cleopatra*, by Stacy Shiff. Jan. 2, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, by Sarah Orne Jewett.
- **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** evening book group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.
- **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** book group meets the second Wed. each month at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided.
- **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** Tuesday morning book group meets the third Tues. of every month at 9:30 a.m. Meet new friends and discuss great books. This book group is sponsored by the library. No sign-up required. Call or visit www.hollis.nh.us/library for the book selection of the month.
- **KELLEY LIBRARY** in Salem

hosts a nonfiction book club, always open to new members.

- **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Jan. 12: *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks.
- **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch and plan on an enjoyable time. Dec. 27: *A Year in Provence*, by Peter Mayle.
- **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month from Sept. through June, free and open to the public, no registration required. Copies of each book are usually available during the month before its scheduled discussion date.
- **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of the Nashua Public Library. New members welcome.
- **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14: *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave.
- **RODGERS LIBRARY** in Hudson afternoon book discussion group meets on the third Tues. of the month. Books are available at the library; for more info or to add your name to the group mailing list, call 886-6030, e-mail askus@rogerslibrary.org or visit www.rogerslibrary.org.
- **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.
- **SOCRATES CAFE** meets on the first Wed. of each month 7-8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, hosted by Rick Branch. New members and curious thinkers are

always welcome.

- **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

Poetry

- **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. See poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org or call 332-0732.
- **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.
- **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets and slams following the open mike. \$3 cover charge. E-mail SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.
- **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.

Writers' groups

- **NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH** (NaNoWriMo) events at Merrimack Public Library include a read-in place Dec. 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at which participants will read brief excerpts from their novels and share stories of the NaNoWriMo experience. See www.nanowrimo.org.

further, lacked the funds to keep the store going. The story got mention from Publishers Weekly, an L.A. blog and the New York Times, where a Nov. 15 article about Ann Patchett's decision to open a bookstore in Nashville said, "The owner of RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth, N.H., said this month that he needed to raise more than \$100,000 to save it. More than 150 concerned people packed the store last week to discuss its fate." Many offered to step up with donations. Reports now are that the bookstore will stay in business and will move soon to a new spot not far from its current location on Congress Street.

- **Plan ahead for January:** More than 55 authors will attend the Pear Tree Publishing / Zorvino Vineyards authors night at Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, on Friday, Jan. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m., according to a Pear Tree press release. Expected to attend are Josh Judge, meteorologist for WMUR-TV and author of many weather books, including *Extreme New England Weather*; Haverhill author Scott Goudswaard; Renee Mallett, author of *Manchester Ghosts*, and "special guest" Mark Goddard, who played Major Don West on *Lost in Space*. There'll probably be wine too. —*Lisa Parsons*

BOOKS


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THE BOOK REPORT

- **Village tales from a Weare woman:** Weare resident Sylvia Merrill Beaupré, who lives in her childhood home, has written *Tavern Village Tales—A New England Footprint*, which "connects the recent history of the village with the distant past, bringing to life those who strolled the same country lanes," according to a Weare Historical Society press release—see www.wearehistoricalsociety.org. The book can be ordered from that site or purchased at New Hampshire Historical Society's store at Eagle Square in Concord. It will also be available at the free family Christmas Party hosted at Weare Town Hall on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m., where the author will be on hand to sign copies of her book.
- **Indie bookstore news:** A few weeks ago Tom Holbrook, the owner of RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth, notified customers that the store was in danger of closing. He borrowed money to buy out his partners and become the store's sole owner a few years ago, and now, unable to borrow

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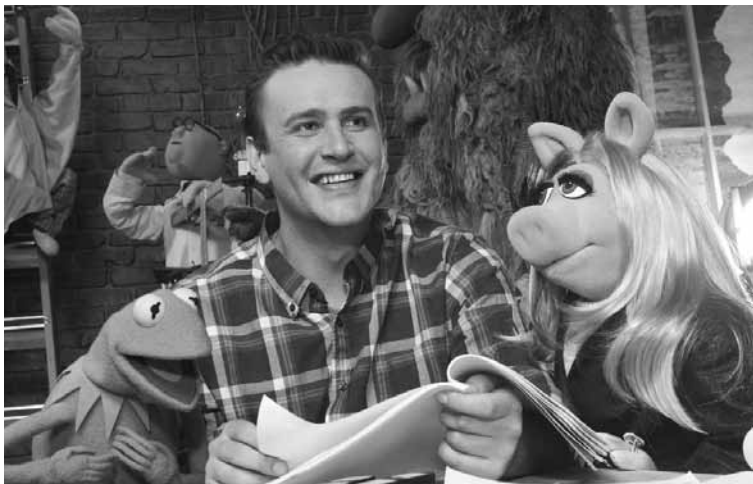
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FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



The Muppets

The Muppets (PG) **Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear and friends reunite to save their old theater in *The Muppets*, a charming reintroduction to the Muppet characters.**

Fuzzy puppet Walter (voice of Peter Linz) and his human brother Gary (Jason Segel) have always been inseparable best friends. But being shorter and muppetier than his brother has always left Walter feeling a little left out — that is until he discovers *The Muppet Show* on TV. Walter becomes a mega fan of Kermit, Fozzie, Gonzo, etc., sensing in part that with them he might finally feel that he belongs. When Gary and his girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams) head to Los Angeles for a vacation, Gary surprises Walter with a ticket to come along so he can check out the Muppet studios and the Muppet Theater from whence their weekly vaudevillesque show used to broadcast. Mary isn't exactly delighted that it wouldn't just be Gary and her on this romantic getaway, but she puts on a smile and forges ahead.

When the trio gets to Muppet studios, Walter is disappointed to see how run-down everything is. But when he takes a quick look in Kermit's old office, he overhears new plans for the old theater. Statler (voice of Steve Whitmore) and Waldorf (voice of Dave Goelz), the balcony hecklers from back in the day, are working on a deal to sell the old theater to Tex Richman (Chris Cooper). They think he's going to build a museum in the spot. But after they leave, Tex explains to his two (Muppet) henchmen that actually he's going to level everything and dig for oil.

Maniacal laugh!

Walter is horrified by these plans and is convinced that he has to do something. He decides to seek out Kermit to find a solution

to the problem — namely, that the land is Richman's if the Muppets can't come up with \$10 million. At first, Kermit (also Whitmore) isn't sure that the old gang is willing to get back together. But then he decides to give it a shot, gathering Fozzie (voice of Eric Jacobson), who now performs with a tribute band called the Moopets; Rowlf (Bill Barretta); Gonzo (Goelz), a plumbing supply company owner; Animal (Jacobson), who is currently in anger management with Jack Black, and all the others. Kermit even takes the gang to Paris to try to woo back Miss Piggy (Jacobson), who is currently an editor at *Vogue* and who harbors feelings of romantic disappointment about the way things ended with Kermit.

Of course, getting the players back is only half the job. The Muppets still have to repair the theater, find a TV that will air their telethon and wrangle a celebrity guest host. Walter pitches in to help get the job done and, because it's so important to him, Gary helps as well — meanwhile Mary wonders if there will ever be time for just the two of them.

The intersection of slapstick, earnestness, showbiz humor and Broadway-style song-and-dance has always been where the Muppets live. In this movie, we see them — pretty much the same characters they always were, with only slightly different voices — return to that same spot as those original TV shows. I remember loving the show, and the subsequent movies, as a kid and I suspect I'd actually get even more out of them as an adult. I liked the cameos from well-known actors and comedians then (even when I didn't understand who, say, Joan Rivers was in the comedy universe) and this movie uses today's equivalents just as well — a single line during a late-in-the-film appearance by Neil Patrick Harris is an example of the kind of

quick-hit humor the Muppets excel at. It's a short, clever joke that will give the grown-ups a chuckle but won't mess up the flow for the kids. Because for all its showbiz and pop culture savvy, *The Muppets* doesn't make references the core of its humor. It works at providing multiple levels of funny — crazy-looking puppets who do wacky things (for the little kids) and tell some goofy jokes (for the older kids) with maybe some connection to something in the general pop culture universe or a nod to a well-known performer (for the grown-ups). Doing all of this at once — as the movie does here — is what keeps it from becoming too slick (ahem, Dreamworks animation) or too cutesy and little-kid-oriented.

Even their songs do a surprisingly good job of bridging all ages and the movie does a good job of mixing classics — we get a little “Rainbow Connection” — with peppy new songs. In particular, Segel and Adams, though humans, are brought into the Muppet fold with these sweet, slightly silly songs — there are both nice visual jokes and moments of real emotion in a song where Walter and Gary each wonder if they are a man or a Muppet.

In the end, I was entertained by the movie but dazzled by the way that it all works. *The Muppets* stayed true to the characters that people like me grew up with and managed to hit that same sweet spot of big-audience entertainment (something that is quite rare in current movies and TV — think some of the better Pixar movies). Whether you haven't seen them for a while or have never really watched Kermit, Gonzo and the gang do their stuff, it's definitely time to meet the Muppets. **B+**

Rated PG for some mild rude humor. Directed by James Bobin with a screenplay by Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller (from characters by Jim Henson), The Muppets is an hour and 38 minutes long and is distributed by Walt Disney Pictures.

Hugo (PG)

An orphan living in a Paris train station makes an amazing discovery about one of the station's shopkeepers in *Hugo*, a live-action adaption of the children's book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* directed by Martin Scorsese.

Hugo Cabret (Asa Butterfield) lives in a Paris train station, at

some point between the world wars. He keeps the clocks running, a job that is technically one his Uncle Claude (Ray Winstone) is supposed to be doing. But Claude, the man who took Hugo in after his father died, has vanished. Hugo doesn't seem to particularly mind that or mind the work — his father (Jude Law) was a clock repair man and a generally handy guy with machines. The work keeps Hugo out of the orphanage — that is if he can hide his guardian-less state from the Station Inspector (Sacha Baron Cohen). And it gives him access to tools and the many small gears he needs for the project he truly cares about: an automaton. His father found the small metal robot at the museum where he worked and the two had been trying to repair it when Hugo's father died. Hugo brought the robot with him to the train station and now works on it in his off time.

In addition to the station clocks, another source of gears is the station's toy shop. Georges (Ben Kingsley), a grumpy old man, works at the shop, occasionally accompanied by his ward Isabelle (Chloe Grace Moretz), who is about Hugo's age. One day, Georges catches Hugo eying a wind-up mouse and accuses him of trying to steal it. He takes a notebook from Hugo — one, we learn, full of drawings by Hugo's father, who was attempting to figure out how to fix the metal man — and says he will only give it back after Hugo works for him for a while. Hugo agrees, surprising Georges with his fix-it abilities, learning a few magic tricks and striking up a friendship with Isabelle.

For about the first 45 minutes, maybe even an hour, I kind of wondered why I was watching this movie. The orphan, the toy shop owner, the cartoonish police man — it was all pretty but it all felt very generically fairy tale-ish. The movie dropped hints about people but not quite enough to reel me in. The Station Inspector (Cohen is made to look impossibly tall and thin — like a toy soldier himself) has an extreme-seeming hatred for orphans, a shy fondness for the florist (Emily Mortimer) and a leg in a brace from a war injury. Georges' grumpiness has a mournful edge. Isabelle, for some reason, has the heart-shaped key that may help the automaton finally work. I felt like the movie was constantly shouting “This Is All MAGICAL” without ever giving me a sense of magic.

But then the movies start.

No, not the movie. The movies, as in the earliest films. Ones like *A Trip to the Moon*, the early 20th-century film that now always makes me think of that Smashing Pumpkin song (if you are old enough to remember music videos, you'll remember how much “Tonight, Tonight” owes to *A Trip to the Moon*). That movie, SPOILER ALERT, was made by a man named Georges Méliès, who made many other fantasy-filled films using some of the earliest movie special effects.

And this is where things do start to feel magical. *Hugo* reaches back to the turn of that century, to the magical times before World War I when new technology didn't yet have a malignant edge to it. The movie tells a lovely, romantic story of the birth of cinema, from the novelty that was a moving picture of a train pulling into a station (which scared the bejesus out of an audience as the train came closer to the front of the screen) to fully-fledged story telling via film.

And now I know why I'm watching this movie. Martin Scorsese has been a long-time proponent of film preservation. I have a half-memory of commercials he used to do on AMC about the early films melted down or scraped for their silver. The more I realized I wasn't just watching a really well made kids' movie but rather a director's passion project, the more I enjoyed *Hugo*. The movie worked on me sort of backward. Hugo is the scenic route to telling the story about Georges and early film but it all fits together (like clockwork) when you see it from the end. Hugo's story does make the other stories go — even supporting characters, like the Station Inspector. Likewise, I was ultimately rather charmed by all of the performances — ultimately, as in at the end. Everything that felt too much or too flimsy pulled together into a coherent piece that presented a unified vision (not unlike, say, a picture drawn by a mechanical robot).

Hugo is really a delight, one that takes a while to cast its spell but does indeed take you someplace magical once it does. **B+**

Rated PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking. Directed by Martin Scorsese with a screenplay by John Logan (from a book by Brian Selznick, who, talk about early film, is a distant relation to David O. Selznick), Hugo is two hours and seven minutes long and is distributed by Paramount Pictures.

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POP CULTURE:

FILM Continued



Arthur Christmas

Arthur Christmas (PG)

Santa's gawky Christmas-loving son gets a chance at the big sleigh in *Arthur Christmas*, an animated movie from Aardman, the group best known for *Wallace and Gromit* and *Chicken Run*.

Santa is not just one man — the man to wear the mantle of Santa Claus is the latest in a long line of intrepid toy-deliverers stretching back to Saint Nick. The current Santa (voice of Jim Broadbent), whose given name we learn is Malcolm, took over for his father, now called Grandsanta (Bill Nighy) back in the 1940s. Santa's sons — as well as Mrs. Santa (Imelda Staunton) — expect the current Santa to retire any Christmas now. In fact, Steve (Hugh Laurie), Santa's oldest son, expects that this year is Santa's last. Steve has worked long and hard on computerizing the who naughty-nice-gift-giving process and on creating the S1, a "sleigh" that is more like a space ship (complete with cloaking device) from which a strike team of elves can descend ready to gift an entire city in minutes. Steve expects that he will be the next Santa (and even, we later learn, has a natty Versace Santa suit waiting in his closet).

Arthur (James McAvoy), Santa's younger son, does not have Santa ambitions but we suspect that he would like to have more to do with the big night than watching it on TV with Grandsanta. Arthur works in the mail department, reading letters and responding with genuine care to each child who asks for a gift or for information on the Santa delivery process. He is invested in each child's receiving his happy Christmas morning and having his faith in the big guy renewed. Which is why Arthur is horrified when it's discovered that a child was missed. Seems a sparkly pink bike slipped past the system and the undelivered gift isn't discovered until after Santa and Steve have already called it a finished Christmas.

This simply won't do as far as Arthur's concerned. With Grandsanta's help, he takes the vintage sleigh — powered the old-fashioned way, by reindeer and magic dust — and heads off to deliver the present before sunrise. Quickly he discovers that Grandsanta and an aging reindeer aren't his only companions — an elf known as Bryony (Ashley Jensen), an eager recruit from the wrapping division,

has come along for the ride. Her plan is to make sure that no matter what problems they encounter, that bike is perfectly wrapped when it gets to the little girl's house.

I had to go kind of a long way to like this movie. *The Muppets* kicked off their show with a *Toy Story 3* short; *Arthur Christmas* got as its intro a thoroughly awful Justin Bieber music video. (Like a gray hair or a desire to go to bed early, an inability to listen to crappy pop must just be one of those things that happen after 30.) Then, the sound in the theater where I saw this movie was wonky — background noises came through just fine, dialogue you had to strain to hear. I was all ready to hate this movie. But I didn't. It has a likeable British sensibility. Yes, Arthur starts out all skinny legs and slip-and-fall jokes, but he turns into a real person — he's not just a buffoon with a heart but someone who feels pride in his work and proud of the Santa mission. Likewise, Steve isn't just a gung-ho villain who puts technology over Christmas spirit. We get to see that he wants to be the Santa not necessarily for ambition's sake but also to have the authority to go with all the responsibility he's been saddled with.

And on top of all these layered character motivations we get a very British screwy devotion to duty. Bryony may not appreciate the sudden sleigh dive bombs but she never stops making sure that bike is perfectly wrapped. And I like that the driving force in the Arthur/Bryony partnership is not some goofy romance or some plot to Save Christmas but a shared belief in the mission of No Child Left Ungifted.

Just as there is a Muppets sense of humor there is an Aardman Animation sense of humor. It is, as I mentioned, British but also surprisingly, quietly mad-cap, in ways that add a kind of liveliness rather than just turning up the volume on zany, as some cartoons can. Even though this is a movie about elves and reindeer and Santas run amok, it actually seems to become subtler and more dimensional as it goes on.

It's rare that a family holiday movie transcends its one season and can be added to the collection of holiday classics worth rewatching — solid children's fare that is worth viewing even after December. *Arthur Christmas* may very well do both. **B**

Rated PG for some mild rude humor. Directed by Sarah Smith from a screenplay by Smith and Peter Baynham, Arthur Christmas is an hour and 37 minutes long and is distributed by Sony Pictures.



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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org

• *Being Elmo* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 2:10 p.m.

• *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (R, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 2:05, 5:35 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 2, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 2 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 4 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, and Tues., Dec. 6, 5:25 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 8, at 5:25 p.m.

• *The Way* (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 2, at 2 & 5 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, and Sun., Dec. 4, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• *Margin Call* (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 2, at 2:10 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 2:10 & 7:40 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, at 2:10 & 5:30 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 6, at 5:30 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 7, and Thurs., Dec. 8, at 2:10 & 5:30 p.m.

• *Take Shelter* (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 2, at 1:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, and Sun., Dec. 4, at 1:30 & 6:15 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, and Tues., Dec. 6, at 2:05 & 7:40 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 7, at 2:05 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 8, at 2:05 & 7:40 p.m.

• *One for the Road* (NR, 2011), an HD ski film, on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 & 9 p.m.

• *Gainsbourg* (NR, 2011) Sat., Dec. 3, at 5:05 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:40 p.m.

• *Troop 1500* a feature film from the PBS series Independent Lens, on Tues., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

• *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock* a feature film from the PBS series Independent Lens, on Tues., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.

• *More Than a Month* a feature film from the PBS series Independent Lens, on Tues., Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.

• *Hell and Back Again* a feature film from the PBS series Independent Lens, on Tues., April 17, at 6 p.m.

• *Strong* a feature film from the PBS series Independent Lens, on Tues., May 15, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton, wilton-townhalltheatre.com

• *The Women on the 6th Floor* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

• *The Way* (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (R, 2011) Fri., Dec. 2, through Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Blossoms in the Dust* (1941) Sat., Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m.

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.franco-american.org

francoamericancentrenh.com

• Cinema Mardi, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.

• *A Christmas Tale* (2008) on Tues., Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

• *Incendies* (R, 2010) on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

• *Heartbreaker* (G, 2010) on Tues., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.

• *L'Auberge Espagnole* (R, 2002) on Tues., March 20, at 7 p.m.

THE JAM FACTORY

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• Local indie films the last Saturday of each month from 8 to 11 p.m. Event is 21+; suggested donation of \$5.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• *Tuck Everlasting* (PG, 2002) Wed., Nov. 30, at 1 p.m.

• *Pearl Harbor* (PG-13, 2001) Wed., Dec. 7, at 1 p.m.

• *Thor* (PG-13, 2011) Tues., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. and Wed., Dec. 14, at 1 p.m.

• *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944) Wed., Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.

• *Toy Story 3* (PG, 2010) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

• *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929) Tues., Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment.

• *The Music Never Stopped* (2011) Wed., Jan. 4, at 1 p.m.

• *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m.

• *Water World* (PG-13, 1995) Wed., Jan. 18, at 1 p.m.

• *The Adjustment Bureau* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Jan. 25, at 1 p.m.

• *The Conspirator* (PG-13, 2011) Wed., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.

• *The Kiss* (1929) silent film with musical accompaniment, Tues., Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.

• *Rocky* (PG, 1976) Wed., Feb. 8, at 1 p.m.

• *Time Traveler's Wife* (PG-13, 2009) Wed., Feb. 14, at 1 p.m.

• *The Pelican Brief* (PG-13, 1993) Wed., Feb. 15, at 1 p.m.

• *Back to the Future* (PG, 1985) Wed., Feb. 22, at 1 p.m.

• **Family Movie Afternoon** Mon., Feb 27, at 2 p.m.

• *African Cats* (G, 2011) Wed., Feb. 29, at 1 p.m.

• *Hangman's House* (1928) silent film with live musical accompaniment, Tues., March 6, at 6 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides* (PG-13, 2011) Fri.,

Dec. 2, at 3 p.m.

• *Spy Kids 4* (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 9, at 3 p.m.

• *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.

• *Kung Fu Panda 2* (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.

• *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows Part 2* (PG-13, 2011) Fri., Dec. 30, at 3 p.m.

UNH MANCHESTER

400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, www.unhm.unh.edu.

• *We Still Live Here (As Nuta-yunean)* a feature film from the PBS deries Independent Lens, on Wed., Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Lioness* a feature film from the PBS deries Independent Lens, on Wed., Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, www.concordpubliclibrary.net

• *White Christmas* (1954) Thurs., Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Soul Surfer* (PG, 2011) Wed., Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

NHTI

Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College Drive, Concord, 271-7185, www.nhti.edu

• *A Christmas Story* (PG, 1983) Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.

• **Friday Night Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com

• *Weekend* (NR, 2011) Thurs., Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Love Crime* (NR, 2011) Fri., Dec. 2, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 4, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 5, though Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Brighton Rock* (NR, 2011) Fri., Dec. 9, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 10, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 11, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 12, through Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

• *The Whale* (G, 2011) Fri., Dec. 16, at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 17, at 4:45, 6:45 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 18, at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 19, through Thurs., Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Into the Abyss* (NR, 2011) Fri., Dec. 23, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 25, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 26, through Thurs., Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 30, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 31, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 1, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 2, through Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Kiss the sky:** Erick Preston's Purple Haze pays tribute to the legendary guitarist with a convincing reproduction of the rock icon's Jimi Hendrix Experience sound. Preston dials down the theatrics and puts the music front and center on songs like "Manic Depression," "Let the Good Times Roll" and its namesake (inspired by Hendrix's onstage LSD experience at the 1967 Monterey Pop fest). See Erick Preston's Purple Haze on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 9 p.m. at Whippersnappers, 44 Nashua Road in Derry. See www.eppurplehaze.com.

• **Throwback twang:** Watch the Eric Grant Band break into a rendition of "I Love a Rainy Night" or "Tight Fittin' Jeans" as country music is paired with an auction benefiting area children. Because it's the benefit's 30th year, the evening's theme is leg warmers, lace finger gloves, shiny red leather jackets and other 1980s accoutrements. Attend the WLNH Children's Auction on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at Lake Opechee Inn and Spa Conference Center, on Elm Street in Laconia. Dinner and show tickets are \$50 at www.meadowbrook.net.

• **Soulful folk:** With a nickname inspired by Mike Myers' love interest in *So I Married An Axe Murderer*, Harriet Riendeau celebrates the release of a new CD that mixes country-flavored originals with covers from Anna Nalick and John Prine. *Sweet Harriet: Feeling a Rhythm* was made with help from Riendeau's Sweet Harriet and the Guy musical partner Walt Leach. See Harriet Riendeau on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop, 586 Nashua St. in Milford, www.toadstool.indiebound.com.

• **Fab Four fix:** A Boston-based group that began as a party and became a regular gig, Beatlejuice is a different kind of Beatles tribute band. They don't dress up, and a typical set list includes post-Fab Four material — Lennon's "Imagine," Mc Cartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed" and Harrison's "My Sweet Lord." Their New Hampshire gig is the year's final show. See Beatlejuice on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8:30 p.m. at Alpine Grove, 19 South Depot Road, Route 111A in Hollis, www.alpine-grove.com. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

• **Don't stop believin':** Broadway comes to town as the national company of a musical that draws from Journey, Foreigner, Whitesnake, Night Ranger and other MTV generation bands. The story could come from any decade — small-town girl meets big-city rocker on the Sunset Strip and love ensues — and the formula netted the show five Tony Award nominations. See *Rock of Ages* on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. at Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St. in Lowell. Ticket prices range from \$28.50 to \$54.50 at www.lowellauditorium.com.

Eileen Ivers fiddles into Christmas

Local cast supports her tour-starting show

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

Eileen Ivers excels at collaboration. Dubbed the "Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by her admirers, Ivers has worked with a diverse range of artists, from the Afro Celt Sound System to Turkish hand drummer Burhan Ocal. She marks each project with a unique stamp. On Patti Smith's "Gone Again" (1996), her edgy, insistent playing, fed through a wah-wah pedal and stitched to the poetic bridge of the roiling elegy, helps propel the song.

The embrace and thanks for her role in the ode to Smith's late husband (Fred "Sonic" Smith) "was great," Ivers said recently from her home in New York. "But really being able to add something to a song that somebody wrote was incredible ... I think that's the stuff that keeps me going."

For Sting's performance of "Soul Cake" on *Late Night with David Letterman*, Ivers provided a key element to the arrangement. "As we were rehearsing, he came over to me and asked if I could play more — a part that was not on the recording," she recalls. "After the second go-round, he came over and gave me a hug and said, 'Thanks, that's what it needed.'"

Ivers' own shows are also collaborative affairs. Cloggers from the Cuniffe Academy of Irish Dance and a choir of New Hampshire's finest young singers will be on hand for the kickoff show of her annual Christmas tour at Saint Anselm College on Saturday, Dec. 3. "An Nollaig - An Irish Christmas" draws extensively from Ivers' 2007 album of holiday tunes, with many new selections also on the program, including "Soul Cake," a traditional Halloween song that over the years has found its way into the Christmas season.

"In a live show, you do want to change things up a little bit," Ivers says. "A CD stands on its own [as] a complete thought and a presentation of music that works as a whole. For a live concert, you want a bit more emotion, humor and interaction."

One element of levity is "Miss Fogarty's

Fruitcake," a song Ivers describes as a baking project gone horribly wrong. On trips to her ancestral home in Ireland, she often returns with luggage weighed down by her aunt's fruitcakes, Guinness and Jameson whisky-soaked delicacies she describes with obvious delight. "But this woman didn't have the same talents as my Aunt Mary," Ivers says with a hearty laugh.

Although Ivers plays the fiddle like an Irish master — she's won nine All-Ireland fiddle championships and starred in the first touring company of Riverdance — she was born and raised in New York City. Her instrument, however, was in her blood from an early age.

"One of my earliest memories is being 3 years old, playing air violin on a pink plastic guitar with a wooden spoon," she says. "I guess there was just something about it, and I kept begging my mom to please rent me one. Of course she finally gave in. I never thought I would have a career in it, and the incredible blessing of doing something you love with life. But I'm glad it worked out."

That's putting it mildly. Ivers' cross-cultural approach has transformed the violin in much the way Ian Anderson redefined the flute, or Wynton Marsalis has given his trumpet so many different voices. A good example is how she wraps Django Reinhardt gypsy jazz styling around "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire," a song with classical origins, to produce something utterly unique and compelling.

A sense of wonder, of the pure joy of creation, is ever-present in Ivers' music.

"The ones that are the most interesting are the ones where you don't know how they will turn out," she says. "It shows you that music really is about listening and adding what you need. Sometimes it can be a minimal amount of notes, but just the angst in that can make it work."

She brings the crowd into her spell for the devotional "Holly Tree," a highlight of her performance. Tommy McDonnell, percussionist and vocalist for Ivers' stellar band Immigrant Soul, leads a playfully competitive sing-along. "He kind of gets the



Eileen Ivers. Courtesy photo

audience to sing louder and softer and challenge each other side by side," Ivers says. "It's a fun little thing that happens in the first half of the song."

"Wren Day" recounts a tradition Ivers learned from her Irish-born father. On St. Stephen's Day, Dec. 26, children rise at dawn and hunt for a wren, which they tie to a holly branch and carried through the village. They knock on each door and sing, "Give me a penny to bury the wren." A dance is held at the end of the day, and the collected funds are donated to the needy.

"They still do in Ireland, it's this whole day of celebration," Ivers says. "What's really beautiful is the whole spirit of giving back."

An Nollaig – An Irish Christmas with Eileen Ivers

When: Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Dana Center at Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester

Tickets: \$6 (students) - \$32.50 at www.anselm.edu/dana

One-of-a-kind Dan Hicks takes on Christmas

Tour features his classics too

By Michael Witthaus
mwiththaus@hippopress.com

Dan Hicks began getting together with his pals from Commander Cody's band and other Marin County musicians to play Christmas tunes in the late 1970s — jug band versions of old standards and holiday treatments of his own songs. But he didn't think about going into the studio until the head of his record label suggested it — the same guy who'd convinced him to revive his most successful band, Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks.

"He comes up with a few good ideas now

and then," said Hicks of the 2010 album, *Crazy for Christmas*. "I was avoiding it for a long time, but I got with a pretty good producer ... some studio guys down in L.A. and the girls that sing with me all the time — who are on this little road trip we'll be taking."

That would be the *Holidaze in Hicksville* tour, stopping in Stratham on Dec. 3. The show will draw from the record, which includes Hicks' popular original "Where's the Money?" repurposed as "Christmas Morning" (with a beer-swilling reindeer and Santa chomping on a post-delivery burger), "Carol of the Bells" done scat style, the

swinging "Cool Yule" and a textbook reading of "Here Comes Santa Claus."

Of course, the set features selections from Hicks' rich catalog.

"It's not all Christmas, I wouldn't want to do that," he says. "We throw in all the good ones like 'I Scare Myself' and 'Canned Music.' I still have a bunch of songs I can do ... I keep it light and entertain myself."

Hicks' brand of acoustic jazz, which sounds like the psychedelic progeny of Django Reinhardt and Louis Armstrong, blessed by Reverend Al Green, won him a big following in a Sixties concert scene dominated by hard rock acts. Hicks played with one of

NITE

those bands early on. The Charlatans were a group known both for Old West style (complete with working firearms) and a raucous sound.

Eventually, Hicks lost interest. “The Charlatans were an example of the kind of loud thing where you guessed at the vocals and hoped that it was all working out,” he says. “I didn’t want to do that. I had another direction; besides that, I’m a jazz guy.”

He was also influenced by Americana, groups like the Jim Kweskin Jug Band. In 1964, he and a friend drove cross-country to attend the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island and explore the New York and Cambridge scenes. The pair tried to book shows along the way, and managed to get a gig their first night.

“We thought, this will to be a push-over, we’re gonna do this across the United States,” Hicks recalls. “It wasn’t really that way. We did play in Houston and we tried to play on the street a few times ... we played in the basket houses in the Village.”

Hicks didn’t form the Hot Licks as much as they grew around him.

“The sound evolved from me just playing guitar, going into places and singing by myself,” he says. “I added to that — bass, violin, some girls, another guitar ... it was always still acoustic, the whole idea was to be like a folk band, a string band, jazzy. I liked the softer approach [and] hearing the vocals.”

Before long, Hicks’ quirky combo was sharing the stage with Janis Joplin, Ten Years After, the Kinks and other icons of the era.

“I sort of fell in with gigs at the Fillmore, Avalon, and Winterland,” he says. “I didn’t really consider myself one of the rock bands on the scene; it was more of a cabaret thing.”

But people noticed anyway — in 1973, Annie Leibovitz photographed him for the cover of Rolling Stone magazine. “It was as if I was one of those guys,” he says. “I got some record sales — kind of like the acoustic child of the rock scene.”

Around that time, Hicks disbanded the Hot Licks.

“I got tired of being a bandleader. There were kind of personality problems,” he says. “It wasn’t fun anymore and I always figured, well, I got these songs and this ability. I can do something else if I want.”



Dan Hicks. Photo Jenée Crayne

Soon, Hicks was appearing with a trio. But apart from recording the soundtrack for an unreleased animated film, *It Happened One Bite* (1978), he didn’t go into the studio again until 2000, with Surfdog Records’ CEO Dave Kaplan’s admonition, “the Hot Licks is a magical name and you ought to use it,” ringing in his head.

Beatin’ the Heat was a star-studded comeback, featuring guest appearances from Elvis Costello, Tom Waits, Rickie Lee Jones, Bette Midler and Brian Setzer. Since then, the reconstituted Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks have released a live album, an all-star DVD and three studio records including *Crazy for Christmas*.

“I’m glad, because I was always associated with that name anyway,” he says, “and I like the sound that’s being made.”

As Hicks utters the word “sound” he draws it out, lingering the way one savors a particularly good sip of wine.

“It’s a good act,” he says finally.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks

When: Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m.

Where: Meehan Performing Arts Center, 100 Academy Way (The Co-op Middle School) in Stratham

Tickets: \$32 at www.HeptunesConcerts.com

Nightlife Listings Music, comedy & parties

• **JAZZ NIGHT** at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst, will be held Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The Compaq Big Band and jazz ensembles from Souhegan, Milford, Hollis-Brookline high schools and the Manchester Community Music School will perform. Tickets cost \$10 (\$8 for students) at the door.

• **SANTA FUND BENEFIT** will be held at Martha’s Exchange Brewery, 185 Main St., Nashua, on Fri., Dec. 2, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The event will feature a performance by the NOYB Band. Tickets cost \$15 at beatkeeper101@aol.com or 508-1044.

• **BALLROOM BENEFIT** will be held at Rockingham Ballroom, 22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, 659-4410, therockinghamballroom.com, on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The show is “A Tribute to Benny Goodman and Peggy Lee.” Tickets cost \$50 at fotr.org or 431-7224. Proceeds will be put toward a new sprinkler system at the ballroom.

• **GARY HOEY** will perform with Lita Ford and Farren Butcher Inc. at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., on Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$28.75 at lowellauditorium.com or 978-454-2299.

• **LEAHY FAMILY CHRISTMAS** will be performed at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, on Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 and \$38 at themusichall.org or 436-2400.

• **ED GERHARD** will perform his annual Christmas guitar concert at The Belknap Mill in Laconia on Sat., Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20

(\$22 at the door) at www.edgerhard.com, Greenlaw’s Music in Laconia, the League of NH Craftsmen in Meredith or by calling 664-7200.

• **DAN HICKS AND THE HOT LICKS** will perform their “Holiday in Hicksville” show at the Meehan Performing Arts Center, 100 Academy Way, Stratham, on Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$32 at heptunesconcerts.com, Ganesh Imports in Portsmouth and all Bull Moose Music locations.

• **RICO BARR AND THE JUMP N JIVE REVIEW** will perform at Rockingham Ballroom, 22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, 659-4410, on Sat., Dec. 3, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$14. Visit therockinghamballroom.com.

• **WASSAIL PARTY** will be held at the Bedford Library, 3 Meet-

Continued on page 74

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NITE Dark Star still shines bright

Grateful Dead tribute band marks 2,000th show



Dark Star Orchestra. Courtesy photo.

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

The Dark Star Orchestra performed its 2,000th Grateful Dead tribute concert on Nov. 19 after less than 15 years of performing together. While the milestone may mean that the band members are not home as often as they would like to be, they are only 500 shy from reaching the 2,500 show mark reached by the Dead during their 30-year, generation-spanning career. Dark Star Orchestra drummer Rob Koritz spoke to the Hippo the day before the band's 2,000th show. They will play Concord on Monday, Dec. 5.

You are about to perform your 2,000th show. Did you ever think [DSO] would be performing together for this long?

God, no. That was never even a thought when we started. Originally, when we started playing for fun — every Tuesday in Chicago — we had no idea where we were going to go. ... We don't have plans for what's going to happen next but we made it to 2,000 and we have no plans on stopping.

What's it like knowing you may reach 2,500 shows before the Dead did? You have already almost reached their record in much less time.

It just means we're never home [laughs]. We got to this number a lot quicker than they did. Part of it is because we love to play and part of it is we don't make nearly as much money as they did. We work to make a living and it means not being home very much.

What kind of impact did the Grateful Dead have on you as an artist?

That's a huge question. I got into them when I was in high school and I was already a musician, a drummer. I really hadn't got into jazz yet and the Grateful Dead gave me my first view of improvisation. They taught me what improvisation was and taught me the impact is had back then. They taught me that a song could go anywhere, take any direction. That on any given night you could play the same song and it could be totally different.

What kind of impact do you think the Dead has had on music today?

The same thing. The whole reason there is a 'jam band' scene is because of the Grateful Dead. They influenced so many musicians to go out and play improvisational rock music. It has become its own genre, thanks to them.

What are some of your favorite [Grateful Dead] songs to perform?

My absolutely favorite song to perform is called 'The Music Never Stops.' I like the music because it takes some different turns. The song plays in a couple of different time signatures, there are a couple of good spots for open improvisation and the lyrics to it are some of my favorite lyrics. Every time this line comes up, I smile: 'People join in hand and hand, while the music plays the band.' That pretty much sums up what's going on on stage.

How do you select which Dead set list you will take on?

We have one guy that does it. It would be impossible if we all tried to put in our two cents. We would probably never agree on which show to play that night. There are a couple of criteria [used in the decision making process] — how big the stage is, how much equipment we can fit on the stage. The second thing is, what did we play last time we were there? If we did a 1970s show, we might do one from the 1980s this time to give them a different flavor of the Grateful Dead. We try not to repeat songs we did the night before. Last night in Boston we played a song that was originally played in Boston in 1976. We match up things up sometimes like that ... a lot goes into deciding which shows we're going to do. It's a hard job putting together the tour.

Do you ever get bored of playing the same songs? How do you keep it new and fresh?

They're different every night. We don't get sick of them just because they're never going to be the same night to night — part of that is because of improvisation. Every time we improvise the songs are different. We can take a song and play it all through the years in the

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style it was played in 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and it might be different. It keeps itself fresh.

What was it like to have five original members of the Grateful Dead perform with Dark Star Orchestra?

It was pretty cool. The fact that they think that we're worthy of playing with, I think that just speaks volumes of what we're doing. They've been nothing but cool with us for the last few years. It is a pretty surreal experience to be on stage with them.

What are the plans for future of DSO?

We just started our tour yesterday so we will play through the middle of December. Other than New Year's we will be off the rest of December and all of January. We will go on another tour in February and March. We are going to Europe and will play in Amsterdam at a festival and go to London to play a show or two ... this year we will also play in Japan and Alaska, which is exciting. We just plan to keep going.

What should the audience at the Capitol Center for the Arts expect from your show?

A real good time.

Do you see a wide age range in your audiences?

Definitely. Our age range is literally from

10 years old to 70 years old. There are some folks who come together, maybe a father, son and grandson and the grandson never saw the Dead, the son saw them in the 1980s and the father saw them in the 1960s. When they all come together, that's pretty cool.

What is it about the Grateful Dead's music that it is still able to span generations?

It's timeless. It's timeless because it has everything. It's rock. It's jazz, blues, country. It's something for everybody. Their music has been around forever and still will be around forever.

Is there anything else you want our readers to know about your band?

I always answer the same thing when people ask me that: A lot of people hear cover bands and tribute bands and are skeptical. Give us a chance. If you've never seen us before but are a fan of the Dead, go give it a try. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Pay tribute to the Dead

When: Monday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$32 (\$35 the day of the show) at ccanh.com or by calling 225-1111

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Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org

Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
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The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusicall.org
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Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

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• **Carbon Leaf** Thurs., Dec. 1, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Chadwick Stokes** Fri., Dec. 2, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **George Winston** Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 3, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Tom Rush** Sun., Dec. 4, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dark Star Orchestra** Mon., Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., Cap Center
• **Vanilla Fudge** Wed., Dec. 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Chad Perrone** Fri., Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Robert Cray Band** Fri., Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Colonial Theatre
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 10, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Chris Smither** Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
• **Ronnie Earl** Sat., Dec. 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Amber Rubarth** Sun., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., Tupelo
• **Bellevue Cadillac** Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 17,

at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **New Riders of The Purple Sage** Wed., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m., Palace
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Palace
• **Beatlejuice** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Fri., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m., Cap Center
• **Liz Longley** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 7, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Little Feat** Sun., Jan. 8, at 8:30 p.m., Tupelo
• **Debbie Davies Band** Tues., Jan. 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Laurence Juber** Thurs., Jan. 12, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Gandalf Murphy & the Slam-bovian Circus of Dreams** Fri., Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Peter Yarrow** Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Moment in Time: A Tribute to Paul Whiteman** Sun., Jan. 15, at 4 p.m., Cap Center
• **Poco** Sun., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., Tupelo
• **Marc Cohn** Thurs., Jan. 19, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 21, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Lori McKenna** Sun., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., Tupelo
• **An Evening with 1964: The Tribute** Sun., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., Palace
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Adam Ezra Group** Sat., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., Boynton's
• **Commander Cody** Sun., Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., Tupelo
• **Suzanne Vega** Wed., Feb. 16, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

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Come one, come all — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

- Across**
- 1. Not lo-fi (hyph)
 - 5. Homeys
 - 10. Londoner rocker
 - 14. Producer needs
 - 15. ‘____ Of The World’ Boys Like Girls (2,3)
 - 16. Would commence for ticket sales
 - 17. Said at end of gospel show
 - 18. Muse “____ could be glorious”
 - (2,3)
 - 19. Irish queen of softrock
 - 20. Classic Duane Allman-penned instrumental (6,6)
 - 23. Important time in music
 - 24. Guns And Roses ‘____ Easy’ (3,2)
 - 28. Talking Heads song about urban areas?
 - 32. ‘Exile In Guyville’ girl (3,5)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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59	60	61			62						63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- 35. Pink Floyd ‘____ Them’ (2,3)
- 36. ‘Rosanna’ rockers
- 37. Hallucinogen
- 38. “Come one, come all into 1984”
- Incubus song (4,5,2,4)
- 42. ‘Telephone Line’ band (abbr)
- 43. Place bands are from
- 44. Nosebleed seats
- 45. The Fall ‘Bend _____’
- 48. ‘The Gambler’ Kenny
- 49. Auditions, perhaps?
- 50. ‘Fight For Your Mind’ Harper
- 51. Al Green ‘Let’s _____’ (4,8)
- 59. ‘Year Of The Cat’ engineer Parsons
- 62. ‘Bleeding Love’ girl Lewis
- 63. Ill-mannered Helmet song?
- 64. Case of New Pornographers
- 65. Like reunion tour fans
- 66. Keith Richards’ look
- 67. Mellancamp “____ you first” (1,3)

C	O	M	A	S		O	W	L	S		C	A	S	T
A	D	O	R	E		P	O	E	T		B	L	E	W
L	O	V	E	T	H	E	O	N	E		S	I	V	A
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				O	I	L		S	M	O	K	I	N	G
I	N	S	U	L	T	E	D		S	U	N			
T	O	P		L	E	V	O	N		R	O	N	D	O
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A	N	T	O	N		R	E	S	I	N		L	I	E
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E	L	O		S	A	H	A	R	A		V	E	T	O
L	O	N	G		R	A	D	I	O	H	E	A	R	T
T	U	N	E		E	N	D	O		I	S	S	U	E
A	D	A	M		R	E	S	T		S	T	E	E	P

- 68. Three or more notes
- 69. Writes
- Down**
- 1. Michael Jackson ‘____ The World’
- 2. Queensryche ‘Promised Land’ song (1,2,1)
- 3. Raised metal strip on guitar neck
- 4. “____ it ironic” Alanis
- 5. Roger Waters ‘The _____ That Be’
- 6. Blink-182 ‘____ Of The State’
- 7. ‘Let’s Roll’ jazz singer James
- 8. “Willie and the ____ boys are playing, bring a nickel, tap your feet”
- 9. Radio ad
- 10. Pearl Jam ‘Singles’ sndtrack song
- 11. Flock Of Seagulls ‘I _____’
- 12. Freezing Vain song?
- 13. Nirvana’s is ‘Pennyroyal’
- 21. Who ‘Live At _____’
- 22. Cool music
- 25. What AC/DC will do to ‘Those About To Rock’
- 26. ‘87 Sonic Youth album
- 27. Doctor’s wishes when Keith falls out of a tree
- 28. Most successful pop star?
- 29. Simple Plan ‘Your Love _____’ (2,1,3)
- 30. ‘Intimacy’ Bloc Party song about claws?
- 31. What Mike Ness has lots of
- 32. The Gaslight Anthem ‘The Queen of _____ Chelsea’

- 33. ‘It’s Not A Fashion Statement _____’
- Deathwish’ My Chemical Romance (3,1)
- 34. Scorpions song about animal exhibition?
- 36. Freddie King ‘I’m _____ Down’
- 39. Used by street performer for tips
- 40. Who John Mayer wrote ‘Love Song For’ (2,3)
- 41. Bad-boy rockers get a _____ shot at station
- 46. Elvis Presley ‘_____ Or Never’ (3,3)
- 47. Hardcore record label
- 48. Held high for revered artists
- 50. Replacements ‘Gary’s Got A _____’
- 52. John Such from Bon Jovi
- 53. “Whoo-hoo!” alternative
- 54. Republica ‘Ready _____’ (2,2)
- 55. Cure song they caught a bear in?
- 56. Extremely popular
- 57. Biblical Everything But The Girl album?
- 58. Johnny Rotten and Nancy Wilson, slang
- 59. Righteous Babe Records “mogul” DiFranco
- 60. Frog Brigade leader Claypool
- 61. Comes before stage name (abbr)
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- Written By: Todd Santos



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Tandy's: DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: bluegrass

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Maya, Camifex, Structures,
Manifest, Betraying The
Martyrs
Starbucks: Shadows of
Rhythm
Strange Brew: Soup
du Jour
Wild Rover: blues jam
w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band

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Giuseppe's: Dan Stevens

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

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w/ Driven
Pasta Loft: Ryan Bossie

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's: Josh Logan Band
Studio 99: piano karaoke

Newmarket
Stone Church: The
Manhattan Project, The
Cyborg Trio

Newton
Hen House: acoustic

865 Second St., 625-9463
The Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
Workmen's Club
183 Douglas St.
XO on Elm
827 Elm St., 206-5721
The Yard
1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
Z Food and Drink
860 Elm St.

Meredith
Camp
300 DW Highway, 279-3003
Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga's
168 Elm St., 249-5214
J's Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St.
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

Nashua
The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
Backstage Bar and Grill
56 Canal St., 598-8256
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121
The Bounty
Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern
Blvd., 800-230-4134
Club Social
240 Main Dunstable Road, 889-9838
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St., 889-5871
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
Holiday Inn, 888-1551
Lafayette Club
34 High St, 889-9860
Laureano Nightclub
245 Main St.
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St., 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St., 880-8686
Penuche's Ale House

open mike w/ John Pora-
zinski

Portsmouth
Press Room: Michael
Winter
Red Door: Local Heroes
w/ Jack Blackwater
Rudi's: Danny Harrington

Salem
Murray's: blues jam w/
Steve Devine

Friday, Dec. 2
Allenstown
Ground Zero: Ground
Zero House Band

4 Canal St., 595-9831
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St., 886-3501
The Polish American Club
15 School St., 889-9819
Sausage King
53 Main St., 204-5110
Simple Gifts Coffee House
58 Lowell St.
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
522 Amherst St., 882-6026
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Villa Banca
194 Main St., 598-0500

New Boston
Gravity Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011

Newmarket
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St., 659-3696
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St., 659-2329
Stone Church
5 Granite St., 650-7700

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
Hadley Road

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St., 819-4947
The Sad Cafe
148 Plaistow Rd, 382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
hill at Hanover and High
streets, 427-2583
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St., 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4337
Gas Light Co.
64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St., 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755
The Music Hall
104 Congress St., 433-3100
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr., 430-9450

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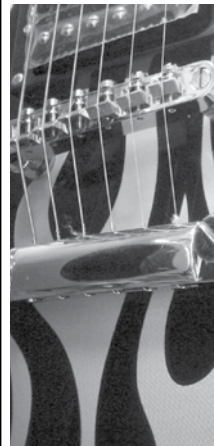
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NITE

On the scene



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Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or

MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: acoustic jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: No Big Secret
Village Square: Mugsy

Kingston

1686 House Tavern: Mike Belkas
Bucco's: George Belli and the Retroactivists

Laconia

Fratello's: Paul Warnick

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Joe McDonald
Whippersnappers: Over 6

Manchester

Black Brimmer: The Hit Men
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: Mama Kicks
Fratello's: Paul Luff
Murphy's: Josh Logan
Raxx: DJ Mike
Rocko's: The Offseason, Halfway To Avalon, The Daydream Expression, Up For Grabs, The Hold Ups, Valley Forge, Zach Robinson
Shaskeen: Bruce Jacques
Strange Brew: BJ Magoon

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, DJ Holy Cow

Merrimack

Homestead: Kim Riley

Milford

Clark's: The Malcolm Experience

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ Lou, DJ Danjah
Amsterdam: DJ Fody's: Smokehouse Lightning

In the spotlight



Jam Factory concert with art

Midisty and Stars Over Neon will perform at the Sunday Afternoon Art Show and Acoustic Concert at the Jam Factory, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. The art show, led by Jessica Guillemette, will run from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Midisty (pictured), whose real name is Kristie Kelly, is a Derry-based musician who attends Berklee College of Music in Boston. Tickets cost \$5 at the door for this 18+ show.

In the spotlight



It's Ed Gerhard season

Celebrate two decades of Christmas guitar music in Laconia with Ed Gerhard at the Belknap Mill at The Mill Plaza on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. The country acoustic guitarist will play arrangements of popular carols and tunes as heard on his holiday albums *Christmas* and *On a Cold Winter's Night*. Selections from *Christmas* were featured in Ken Burns' recent documentary *Mark Twain*. Tickets cost \$20 at edgerhard.com, Greenlaw's Music in Laconia, the League of NH Craftsmen in Meredith or by calling 664-7200. Tickets cost \$22 at the door. Concertgoers who bring a non-perishable food item to the show will receive a discount on a Gerhard CD. All food will be donated to the Laconia Area Food Pantry and Community Action.

Haluwa: Rock City

Martha's Exchange:

DJ Spivak
Studio 99: young musicians open mike

Newmarket

Stone Church: Ross Livermore Band

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: Aorta, Less Of A Felony, Luis and Matt Hernandez, Beat 4, Fire N' Spice

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Ryan

Flaherty and the Hungry Moon

Gaslight: DJ Koko P

Hilton Garden Inn:

Kurt Ehrenberg

The Page: DJ

Red Door: Ryan Obermiller

Press Room: One Hand

Free, Cal Power

Rudi's: Nick Mainella

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob

Breton

Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Tom Dixon

Band

Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, Dec. 3

Allenstown

Ground Zero: Ground Zero House Band, The Bunny The Bear, Tonight Will Fall, Malachi, Hope Lies Within, Chasing Ghosts

Auburn

Holiday's: Tom Ballerini

Belmont

The Lodge: Fried Cactus

Concord

Green Martini: Kurva Joe
Hermanos: Tim Gurshin
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Barley Pub: People

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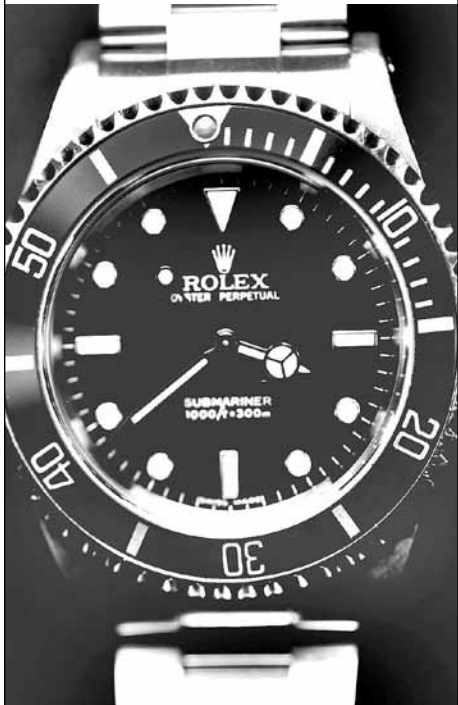
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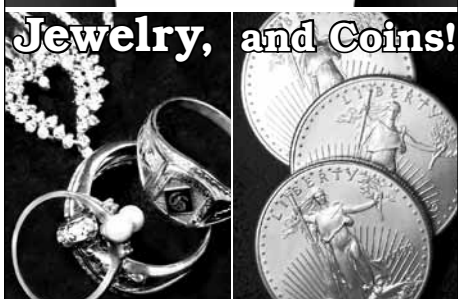
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Kelley's Row: Pat Foley
RJ's: DJ

Epping
Holy Grail: Twocasters

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch: Shana Stack Band

Franklin
Elks Club: Joe Moss Band

Gilford
Patrick's: Brian Gray

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Tom Dixon Band

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Siroteau
Village Square: Leaving Eden

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Bailout

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Steve Tolley
Whippersnappers: Mama Kicks

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Fighting Friday
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band
Fratello's: Lachlan Maclearn
Murphy's: The Voice
Raxx: DJ Mike
Rocko's: Spies Like Us, Ballast, Rumors of Betrayal, The Bunny
The Bear, Anchorlines, Last Minute Sedative
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge, Scalawag
Strange Brew: Tabasco Fiasco
Wild Rover: The Paulies
The Yard: Country Mile

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Joel Cage, Exit 21

Merrimack
The Homestead: Julie Dougherty

Milford
Clark's: Charlie Christos
Pasta Loft: Rich and Bob

In the spotlight



Fun with Phoenix

Phoenix will perform classic rock, blues and Top 40 covers at Makris Lobster & Steak House, 354 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. Lead vocalist Bob Knowles brings more than 30 years of front man experience to the stage and guitarist Nick Fowler has played with Chubby Checker and opened for Big and Rich. Drummer J.R. Maurice was a member of Kan-Tu Blues Band; bassist Chris Edris and guitarist Dave Mitchell round out the troupe.

In the spotlight



Big Band jazzitude

Jazz up your week by catching a big band show at the New Hampshire Jazz Center at Pitman's Freight Room, 94 New Salem St., Laconia, nhjazz.com, on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:15 p.m.) This week's show will feature a performance by the Ayn Inserto Jazz Orchestra, a 17-piece Boston-based ensemble that performs original arrangements by Inserto, an award-winning composer. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and the venue is BYOB.

Nashua Amber Room: DJ Backstage Bar & Grill: DJ Haluwa: Rock City Martha's Exchange: DJ Peddlers: Ripcord Studio 99: open mike, Jon McAuliffe	Melvin	Nashua Fody's: open mike w/ Chad Verbeck
Newmarket Stone Church: Palefighter, The Brothers Kite	Sunday, Dec. 4 Concord Hermanos: Paul Bourgelaais Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor	Newmarket Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden
Plaistow Sad Cafe: Still Well Angel, Thunderbear, The Dead Nobodies, 10 O'Clock Drive	Dover Brick House: DJ Erich Kruger RJ's: DJ	Portsmouth Blue Mermaid: open mike Press Room: jazz grill w/ Bill Jones, Phil Grenadier, Ryan Parker, Bruno Raberg and Gary Fieldman Red Door: Green Lion Crew Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Sharon Jones
Portsmouth Blue Mermaid: Chad Verbeck Gaslight: DJ JW Hilton Garden Inn: Curt and Jenn The Page: DJ Press Room: jazz lunch w/ Larry Garland, Jeremy Lyons Red Door: Mike Swells Rudi's: Mike Effenger Trio	Goffstown Village Trestle: blues jam	Stratham Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson
Salem Jocelyn's: DJ	Manchester 900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini Jam Factory: Stars Over Neon, Midisty Penuche's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers Strange Brew: Acoustic Duo	Monday, Dec. 5 Candia Henderson's: electric rock open mike
Seabrook Chop Shop: Stomping	Meredith Giuseppe's: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo	Concord Hermanos: Paul Bourgelaais Red Blazer: open mike w/Matt Langley
	Milford Clark's: DJ Pasta Loft: Take 4	Dover Castaway's Boathouse: Denis Patrick's Merry

Continued on page 65

inghouse Road, Bedford, on Sun., Dec. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. The Bel Airs will perform a holiday-themed Doo Wop and Oldies music show. Refreshments will be served.
 • **ERIC STEPANIAN** will perform at Great Bay Community College, 320 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth, on Wed., Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. The show is free and open to the public.
 • **HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY AND SHOWCASE** will be held by Queen City Ballroom in the Armory Room of the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, on Sun., Dec. 11, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets cost \$16 until Dec. 10 at the studio (21 Dow St., Manchester) or by calling 622-1500. Tickets will cost \$20 at the door.
 • **THE BUZZ BALL** will be held at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The event will feature the hosts of *Greg and the Morning Buzz* and a performance by the Velvet Elves. Tickets cost \$30 and \$40 at palace-theatre.org or by calling 668-5588.

Bowling

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 • **LAKESIDE LANES** 2171 Can-

dia Road, Manchester, 627-7722, www.lakesidelanes.com.

• **LEDA LIGHTHOUSE** 340 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-4884, www.ledalanes.com.
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 • **SPARE TIME** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, www.stadiumtenpin.net.
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NITE

NITE

Pranksters' open mike
Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: open mike

Manchester
Fratello's: Lachlan Maclearn
Milly's: Dom and Reid of Manchuka

Meredith
Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo

Merrimack
The Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford
J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

Portsmouth
Press Room: Barry Saunders, Mike Walsh and Tim Webb

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Concord
Barley House: Irish sessions
Hermanos: Draa Hobbs
Tandy's: open mike w/ Calvin McFarlin

Dover
Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca, Eddy Price, Pretty Things Peepshow
RJ's: DJ

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Baked Naked, Liquid Courage

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester
Black Brimmer: DJ Chad
Fratello's: Sev
Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike w/ Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Aldous Collins
Strange Brew: Peter Parcek

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael

In the spotlight



Carano and Calliope

Matthew Carano, of the Portsmouth-based band Pale-fighter, is aiming to raise \$10,000 for Kiva (kiva.org), an international organization that facilitates loans for entrepreneurs, through proceeds, album

sales and donations brought in at his double show CD release party at the Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket, on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 and 9 p.m. Carano will give a digital download of his latest album, *Calliope*, as a thank you gift for all concert goers who donate to the organization. The Brother Kite will also perform. Ticket prices start at \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

In the spotlight



Sounds like Peggy Lee

A 14-piece orchestra directed by Everett Longstreth and accompanied by vocalist Amanda Carr (pictured, Rich Wagner photo) will pay tribute to Benny Goodman and Peggy Lee, while raising money for a new fire sprinkler system for the Rockingham Ballroom. The benefit show for the mandatory equipment upgrade will be held at the ballroom, 22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). Tickets cost \$50 (\$65 for limited premier seating) at the door, at fotrb.org, or by calling 659-4410.

Bourgeois

Merrimack
The Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua
Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Newmarket
Stone Church: Hot Buttered Rum, Commmeal

Portsmouth
Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland, hoot open mike w/ Bob Halperin

Seabrook
Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, Dec. 7
Antrim
Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn
Holiday's: DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen
Alan's: open mike

Concord
Hermanos: Paul Heckel/John Hunter Duo
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase

Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Gilford
Patrick's: Sev

Hampton
La Bec Rouge: DJ Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston
The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Manchester
Black Brimmer: Rebel Express
Fratello's: Joe McDonald
Joker's: Josh Logan
Penuche's: open mike w/ Friday After Five
Strange Brew: Frank Morey

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Don Bergeron

Merrimack
The Homestead: Gardner Berry

Milford
Clark's: open mike
J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks

Pasta Loft: Morgan and Pete

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge: open mike
Old Amsterdam: open mike
Peddler's Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: jazz jam

Newmarket
Stone Church: Hot Buttered Rum, Commmeal

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell
Press Room: John Waterman
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

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Friends of Retired Greyhounds www.FriendsofRetiredGreyhounds.org

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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 3
Manchester
Headliners: Johnny Pizzi
Joker's: comedy night

Monday, Dec. 5
Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Dec. 7
Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua
Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, Dec. 8
Nashua
Fody's: Alana Susko

Saturday, Dec. 10
Manchester
Headliners: Bob Goutreau

Monday, Dec. 12
Concord
Penuche's: live standup

All quotes are from Emily Dickinson, born Dec. 10, 1830, in Amherst, Mass.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec. 21) “To be alive is power; Existence in itself, Without a further function, Omnipotence enough.” You’re KING OF THE WORLD! Which maybe you don’t want to be, or maybe you do, but whichever, make the most of it and be very kind to others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) “Fame is a fickle food / Upon a shifting plate” Don’t eat Jello. Hold perfectly still. No elbows on the dinner table. Pity the person who’s the star of the big event.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) “We never know how high we are / Till we are called to rise” You should probably keep a good hold on something sturdy so you don’t lose your balance. Also just don’t raise your hand in class for a while.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) “I measure every Grief I meet / With narrow, probing, Eyes – / I wonder if It weighs like Mine – / Or has an Easier size.” Keep your eyes on your own work.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) “To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee, / One clover, and a bee. / And revery.” Small beginnings may yield surprisingly vast results, and

a little clover honey with your tea will be just the thing to soothe frayed nerves, particularly if taken with biscuits or scones and some revery.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “That Love is all there is, Is all we know of Love;” Study up on love. There’s more to learn. Don’t listen to know-it-alls. Instead, make sure to form your own opinion based on a careful gathering of relevant information and experience. Separate the fluff from the substance. It’ll probably take a while, so you’ll need to be patient with yourself. This is just a beginning. But hey, love is worth it.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) “Success is counted sweetest / By those who ne’er succeed.” Don’t despair. You’ll get ’em next time, slugger. Meanwhile, you ought to reconsider your definition of “failure.” And “succeed.” And “sweet.” And “ne’er.”

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) “Faith is a fine invention / For gentlemen who see; / But microscopes are prudent / In an emergency!” You might want to invest in some reading glasses, at least. You’ll need to look very closely at the situation to really get anywhere. Be a gentleman.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) “And if, indeed, I fail, At least to know the worst is sweet.” Hitting bottom does have a certain kind of satisfaction

to it. And then you get to figure out what to do next.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain;” Eh, let it break. Then be ready with Band-aids and hot cocoa.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “Hope is the thing with feathers / That

perches in the soul, / And sings the tune without the words, / And never stops at all” Can’t get that song out of your head? Sing it out loud. Can’t sleep? Try a feather pillow, organic, with cotton casing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) “Each life converges to some centre Expressed or still; Exists in every

SIGNS OF LIFE

human nature A goal” It’s really time for you to stop putting off your decision to stop procrastinating. But take time to understand what your goal, Expressed or still, really is and what it should be, not to mention how best it will serve you and those around you. Clashing goals are a reality.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

				4				3
	1	3			6		4	
	8	7			1			
			2			1	3	
5								9
	6	9			5			
			3			2	5	
	3		6			8	9	
6				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/01

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

11/24

9	4	1	5	6	8	2	3	7
3	2	8	7	9	4	6	1	5
5	6	7	1	3	2	8	9	4
7	5	6	4	2	1	3	8	9
8	1	2	9	7	3	5	4	6
4	3	9	6	8	5	7	2	1
6	7	3	8	4	9	1	5	2
2	9	5	3	1	6	4	7	8
1	8	4	2	5	7	9	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Now That's Enterprising

Enterprising reporters get stories by earning the trust of their sources, which Simon Erero of the Post-Courier (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea) obviously did. At a banquet in November, the News Limited (Rupert Murdoch's empire) awarded Erero its "Scoop of the Year" honor for reporting on militant tribal fighters of the Free West Papua movement — a scoop he had to earn by agreeing to undergo a ritual circumcision, with bamboo sticks, to prove his sincerity. (Some of the rebels still wear penis gourds whose size varies with the status of the wearer.)

The Litigious Society

• An Illinois appeals court finally threw out a lawsuit in August, but not before the two-year-long battle had created a foot-high pile of legal filings on whether two "children" (now ages 23 and 20) could sue their mother for bad parenting while they were growing up. Among the claims were mom's failure to send birthday cards or "care" packages during the kids' college years and calling her daughter at midnight to ask that she return home from a party (and once failing to take the girl to a car show).

• Todd Remis, an unemployed stock-market research analyst, filed a lawsuit in 2009 against the photographer of his 2003 wedding, citing breach of contract because the 400 shots taken during the ceremony failed to cover several key moments, such as the "last dance." A November 2011 New York Times report pointed out that Remis is demanding not just the return of his \$4,100, but for the photographer to pay for re-creating the missing scenes by covering travel expenses for all 40 guests to reconvene. (Remis and his wife have divorced; she has returned to her native Latvia, and Remis does not even know how to contact her.)

• Consumer Rights: (1) Jonathan Rothstein of Encino, Calif., filed a lawsuit in September against Procter & Gamble for selling its Crest toothpaste in "Neat Squeeze" packages, which Rothstein said make it impossible to access the last 20 percent of the contents, thus forcing consumers to buy more toothpaste prematurely. (He wants Procter & Gamble to return 90 cents to everyone who bought Neat Squeeze packages.) (2) Sarah Deming of Keego Harbor, Mich., filed a lawsuit in September against the distributor of the movie "Drive" (starring Ryan Gosling) because its trailers promised fast-driving scenes (like those in the "Fast and Furious" series), but delivered mostly just drama.

Fine Points of the Law

(1) A recent vicious, unprovoked attack in Toronto by Sammy the cat on Molly the black Labrador (bloodying Molly's ear, paws and eye) left Molly's owner without recourse to Ontario's or Toronto's "dangerous pet" laws. The owner told the Toronto Star in November that, apparently, only dangerous dogs are covered. (2) Maya the cat was central to a recent contentious British immigration case when a judge seemed to favor residence for a Bolivian national because of Maya. The judge had concluded that the Bolivian man and his British partner had established a close-knit "family" relationship because of the need to care for Maya.

Ironies

• Unclear on the Concept: (1) Licensed Texas physician Akili Graham, 34, who gives paid

motivational speeches on healthy living ("How to Deal With Stress"), was arrested in October in Houston and accused as the front man for four "pain clinics" that allegedly dispense prescription drugs illegally. (2) A chief child-abuse investigator for the Catholic Church in Britain, Christopher Jarvis, 49, was sentenced in October following his guilty plea to possession of over 4,000 child-sex images on his computer. Jarvis had been hired in 2002 to protect against pedophiles' access to church groups.

• Why People Love Washington: U.S. Rep. Tom Graves of Georgia told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in August that he and a partner had "settled" the lawsuit brought by the Bartow County Bank for failing to repay a \$2.2 million loan they had taken out in 2007. Graves has been a staunch advocate for governmental fiscal austerity and voted against raising the federal debt-ceiling in August. However, he had balked at repaying the \$2.2 million (though he had signed a personal guarantee) because, he said, the bank should have known when it made the loan that Graves would be unable to pay it back.

• Violinist Martin Stoner, 60, who lost his job after 25 years and who is suing the New York City Ballet for age discrimination, petitioned federal judge Robert Patterson to disqualify himself from the case because he is too old (88) and, according to Stoner, has vision and hearing problems.

Compelling Explanations

(1) Management consultant Graham Gibbons, 42, was on trial in Cardiff, Wales, at press time, charged with making a clandestine video of himself and his then-girlfriend in bed. Gibbons denied being a pervert, insisting that he made the video to analyze, for "efficiency," the "time and motion" of his "performance," as he might do for corporate clients. (Despite his alleged improved lovemaking, the girlfriend broke up with him.) (2) West Virginia roadkill-cooking activist David Cain told Bloomberg News in October that he generally supported Volvo's new driver-safe-

ty technology that warns of objects ahead in the road. Cain pointed out that it was just a warning, that the driver "could still choose to run over something that's good for eating."

People With Issues

In November, Tommy Joe Kelly, unsuccessfully acting as his own lawyer, was convicted of slashing a stranger's tire by an Austin, Texas, jury, despite his explanation. "OK, I'm going to tell you the truth on this one," he said from the witness stand. "It doesn't sound right, but it is. I ... had hemorrhoids at that time, super duper bad." (There have been 391 tire slashings in Kelly's neighborhood over the last four years, but he was charged with only one count, and sentenced to 10 years in jail.)

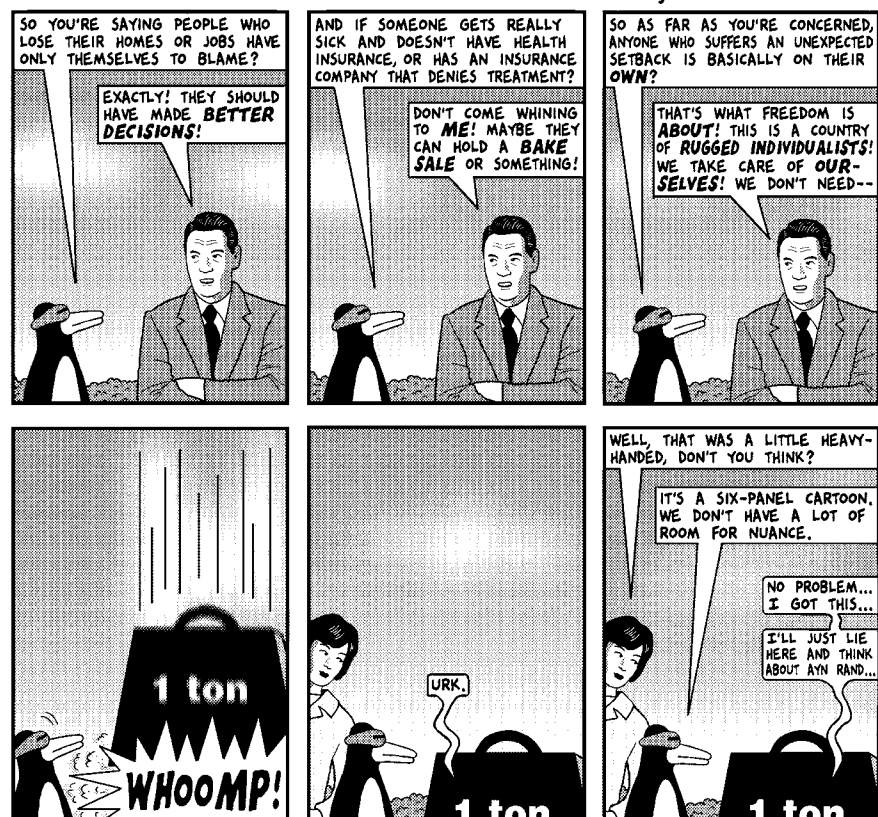
Least Competent Criminals

Robbers Easily Subdued: (1) Dale Foughty, 56, was charged with robbing a convenience store in Jacksonville, N.C., in October, despite attempting to intimidate the clerk by dressing as Spiderman. However, the clerk poked Foughty in the stomach with a broom, sending him away empty-handed. (2) Cody Smith, 18, was charged with snatching a woman's purse in Johnson City, Tenn., in November. The victim chased Smith into nearby shrubbery, entangling him long enough for her to recover the purse. (3) Two men, attempting a robbery of the Ace Smoke Shop in Altadena, Calif., in July, fled after grabbing only part of the store's cash. They were frightened off by the manager's barking Chihuahua.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: [WeirdNews at earthlink dot net](http://earthlink.net), <http://www.NewsoftheWeird.com>, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679. Copyright 2011 Chuck Shepherd. Distributed by Universal UClick.

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by TOM TOMORROW



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